Note: This is Online Appendix 1 of Arendse JO, Zweigenthal V, Gwyther L. Operationalising palliative care integration: Experiences of implementers in South Africa. Afr J Prm Health Care Fam Med. 2026;18(1), a5221. https://doi.org/10.4102/phcfm.v18i1.5221

Focus group guide

Implementing Teams

Opening question: We thought we could start off by asking you to share your journey in palliative care over the last year and maybe share why do you buy in to palliative care?

Introductory question: How many of you are trained in palliative care? Then to those who are trained - has the training in palliative care been beneficial in order for you to adequately manage patients who are eligible for palliative care?

Transition question: What support did you require from your managers and have you received that?

Key Questions:

- Share with us about the things that make you uncomfortable regarding palliative care?
- Could you also share with us more about what made it easy for you to apply your new knowledge and skills in Palliative Care in this facility.
- How do you feel about Morphine prescribing?
- *(Showing them the graphic of the Health System Characteristics and clarifying these, then ask the following question*) What needs to change to within the health system in order to improve the integration of palliative care?
- In your area of influence, what would you change that would facilitate the integration of palliative care into the health system?
- How does your relationship with the facility management affect your ability to implement this new intervention?
- How would you describe your relationships with external stakeholders (including CHWs) and how does this influence the integration and provision of palliative care service?
- How are you measuring whether things are changing? What indicators will add value?
- What else should change within the health system that you believe is crucial in making the integration of palliative care into the health system, a reality?

Probes:

- What has changed with folder management?
- How do you identify your Pall Care patients e.g. do you have a way of flagging anything on their folder or on the PHCIS system?
- How do you refer patients to the Community Health Workers?