

## **The hospital's physical environmental effects on palliative patients and families**

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The physical hospital environment influences behaviour and emotions, which affect the quality of life of patients receiving palliative or end-of-life care. Therefore, a meta-synthesis was undertaken to explore and examine the literature published between 2010 to 2020 about the perception of the physical environment in the general acute wards or palliative care units within the hospital. Thematic analysis and meta-ethnography techniques were combined to analyse and synthesise the twelve international qualitative papers.

The SSAFeR Place concept model was developed through understanding the environmental factors important to palliative and end-of-life patients and families when receiving care in the acute or palliative care units. The SSAFeR Place acronym represents an environment that feels safe and is customisable, sharable, home-like in ambience and aesthetics, values and accommodates family, and promotes reflection. Findings showed that patients connect their home to their safety, identity, and belonging, producing a desire to create a safe and familiar home-like environment within their hospital space. The meta-synthesis revealed that accommodating families and attention to room layout, home-like aesthetics, and ambience is needed in order to foster a palliative approach to comfort and quality of life for palliative and end-of-life patients and their families.

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