Research Assistant

2018-2019 Academic Year

Pediatric Concurrent Care

The College of Nursing at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is seeking a research assistant (RA) to support quantitative research in a pediatric end-of-life focused study. Our NIH-funded study using nationally-representative Medicaid data with patient and family outcomes will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of a federally-mandated end-of-life intervention. Each year over 30,000 families make the “terrible choice” to continue curative, life-prolonging therapies or utilize hospice care for their children and adolescents with serious illnesses. To improve continuity and quality of end-of-life-care, recent changes in Medicaid regulations enable pediatric patients to opt for concurrent care – the continuation of life-prolonging therapies while enrolled in hospice care. While nationally concurrent care has been in effect for over 7 years, there has been no investigation of its effectiveness on patient and family outcomes. This RA position will support the study aims to compare the: 1) effectiveness (i.e., continuity of care; symptom management), 2) potential burdens (i.e., hospice care intensity, care fragmentation), and 3) cost of concurrent care versus standard hospice care for children and adolescents.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The RA will work with a multidisciplinary team of nurses, physicians, and health care economists. The RA will be involved in many phases of project start-up including data acquisition, data cleaning, literature review, policy watch-dog, and dissemination.

Qualifications:

- Current graduate student enrolled at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work independently at a distance and as a member of the team
- Flexibility in adapting to the needs of a dynamic research study
- Experience with Stata or SPSS, preferred

Compensation and Time Commitment:

The pay rate for this position is $20/hr. The weekly time commitment is 15 hours/week under the direction of the Project Manager. Possibility of extension beyond the 2018-2019 academic year.

Send resume and cover letter to Dr. Lisa Lindley at llindley@utk.edu by August 31, 2018