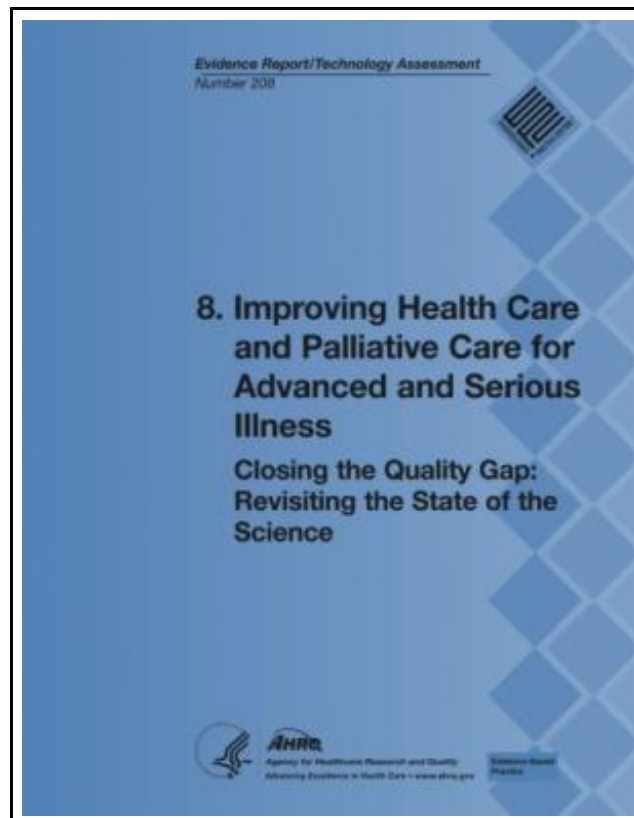# 8. Improving Health Care and Palliative Care for Advanced and Serious Illness: Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science (Evidence Report/Technology Assessment Number 208) (Paperback)

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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Extensive evidence supports the effectiveness of clinical interventions for improving patient centered outcomes for patients with advanced and serious illness. For example, many types of medications and other interventions to treat pain, can lead to significant reductions in pain severity and pain-related outcomes such as quality of life. However, studies in different areas have found that these are often not well integrated into medical practice. For pain, despite widely accepted pain screening and clinical practice guidelines, pain continues to be undertreated, particularly for vulnerable populations such as nursing home patients. For communication and decisionmaking, in a study of audiotaped initial oncology consultations for patients with terminal cancer, fewer than half of oncologists offered alternatives to chemotherapy as an option. In addition, only 58 of patients were informed of their life expectancy and only 60 were aware of uncertainty about the benefits of chemotherapy. And despite wide availability and insurance coverage of hospice care, in 2009, only 42 of patients who died in the U.S. received any hospice care, and, of those, only half received more than three weeks of care. This report is part of a larger review of interventions aimed at reducing the quality gap. Given the critical importance of interventions to improve health care and palliative care in this population, we focused on these types of interventions in this report. These interventions can include changes in the way care is provided within a system, such as palliative care consultation services, and interventions to change how patients/families interact with the health care system, such as a patient self-management program for pain that is integrated with patients health care. They can also include quality improvement interventions, which can...

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