Background
Nurses need to be prepared to meet dying patients, therefore, nurses’ attitudes toward caring for dying persons and factors influencing such attitudes need to be explored.

One instrument investigating these attitudes is the Frommelt Attitudes Toward Care Of the Dying (FATCOD) scale, which has not previously been used in the Swedish language.

Purpose
To compare FATCOD scores of Swedish nurses and nursing students with those from other languages, and evaluate influences of earlier experiences on attitudes toward care of dying patients.

Method
A descriptive, cross-sectional, and predictive design was used. FATCOD is a 30-item questionnaire concerning attitudes toward caring for dying persons. FATCOD scores of
• 113 Swedish nurses from hospice, oncology, surgery clinics, palliative home care and
• 100 Swedish nursing students
were compared with published scores in similar populations from the USA, Israel and Japan.
Potential influencing factors were
• age,
• gender, and
• for nurses: number of years as nurse or enrolled nurse and place of work
• for students: experience of care work and experience of care for dying patients

Results
➢ Swedish FATCOD mean scores did not differ from published means from the USA and Israel; but were significantly more positive than Japanese means.
➢ There were no significant differences between the registered nurses’ and the nursing students’ scores, but the enrolled nurses had a more positive attitude than the nursing students had.
➢ For nurses, place of work did influence the attitudes in that: Hospice and palliative care team nurses had more positive attitudes to care of the dying than did oncology and surgery nurses.
➢ Age, gender, number of years of experience or, for students, earlier experience did not influence attitudes toward care of dying patients.

Conclusions
The Swedish FATCOD was considered appropriate to measure Attitudes Toward Care of Dying patients in Sweden. Nurses’ professional experience and the care culture affect their attitudes toward giving care to dying patients.

References: