This review suggests possible benefits of Therapeutic Touch for inpatients on a geriatric palliative care unit based on the patients' responses and observations noted by the Therapeutic Touch practitioners. Patients appearing to (n=39) was the most common behavior witnessed by the Therapeutic Touch practitioner followed closely by drifting to sleep (n=33).

This review reveals limitations to providing Therapeutic Touch to inpatients on a geriatric palliative care unit. Older patients with lower admitting PPS scores and shorter length of stay were less likely to receive Therapeutic Touch. Older patients with lower admitting PPS scores and shorter length of stay were less likely to receive Therapeutic Touch and only a small number (20%) of patients admitted during the study period received Therapeutic Touch.

This review is helpful in recommending improvements to the current care unit to describe the patients receiving the therapy and to identify their response to this treatment.

As a preliminary study, the results of the chart review suggest potential beneficial effects for significant numbers of recipients and deserves a robust comparison study in future.

### Future directions:
Review/revise program procedures to improve processes and documentation, and ensure all or most patients are offered the therapy. Develop a recruitment plan for increased Therapeutic Touch practitioners. Develop a more robust descriptive study.

### For inquiry:
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**REFERENCES**