

Cheryl Ann Thaxton, DNP, APRN, CPNP, FNP-BC, CHPPN, ACHPN, FPCN is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who is certified as a pediatric nurse practitioner and family nurse practitioner. Dr. Thaxton has over 28 years of experience in nursing which includes several years of experience in critical care, palliative care, primary care, nursing leadership, education, program development and as school of nursing faculty. Dr. Thaxton graduated from George Washington University's DNP program and has devoted several years of her career to research surrounding the specific needs of children and adults with life-limiting illnesses. She has served as National Faculty for the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) for several years and has helped to launch ELNEC pediatric palliative care education in Kyoto, Japan in addition to providing palliative care education and nurse leadership training in Hong Kong, China. Dr. Thaxton is one of the founding members/former program coordinator for the Duke Children's Pediatric Quality of Life Team in Durham, North Carolina. She has provided leadership and mentorship for nursing students, APRN students, medical residents and fellows while developing algorithms and protocols for the onboarding of palliative care providers. Dr. Thaxton is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) and she has served on the national exam development committee for the pediatric palliative care certification exam.

Dr. Thaxton is the DNP Program Director/Director of Master's APRN Clinical Tracks at Texas Woman's University (TWU). In 2019, Dr. Thaxton received the D Magazine Excellence in Nursing Award and she was also designated as a Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing (FPCN) which is bestowed upon HPNA members who have made significant contributions to HPNA, the Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center (HPCC) and/or the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation (HPNF). Dr. Thaxton recently published an article in April 2020, titled *Preparing Nurses for Palliative Care in the NICU* along with co-authors Dr. Betty Ferrell and Heather Murphy. She also worked with the National ELNEC Faculty to develop resources for Pediatric Palliative Care COVID-19 patients, which can be located here: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/ELNEC/COVID-19>