

Cheryl Ann Thaxton, DNP, MN, APRN, CPNP, FNP-BC, CHPPN, ACHPN, FPCN, FAANP is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who is certified as a pediatric nurse practitioner and family nurse practitioner. Dr. Thaxton is the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Director at Texas Woman's University (TWU), Dallas/Denton/Houston Campuses. She has over 30 years of experience in nursing which includes several years of experience in critical care, palliative care, primary care, nursing leadership, curriculum development, program development, and as school of nursing faculty. Dr. Thaxton 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 over ten years. The ELNEC project is a national and international education initiative to improve palliative care. Since 2000, ELNEC is a collaboration between City of Hope, Duarte, California, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), Washington, DC. Dr. Thaxton 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. She has a plethora of evidence-based publications relating care of pediatric and adult patients with life limiting illnesses; she also served as an actor in several role play videos and vignettes for the ELNEC project. She developed a curriculum along with other ELNEC Faculty for the Oncology Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - Primary Palliative Care role focused on supporting pediatric oncology patients.

Dr. Thaxton is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), and for six years she served on the national exam development committee for the Certified Hospice and Palliative Pediatric Nurse (CHPPN) certification exam. In 2019, Dr. Thaxton received the D Magazine Excellence in Nursing Award in addition to being designated as a Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing (FPCN). Dr. Thaxton is currently serving in the Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC) Task Force Past Co-Chair role for the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care (NCHPC); the intent of the first-ever PPC Task Force is to improve national alignment and impact by identifying feasible action items to accelerate advancement of the field and improve children's access to high-quality palliative care. She is also the 2022-2023 co-Chair for the Annual American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)/HPNA.

In 2021, Dr. Thaxton received the DFW Great 100 Nurses award in Dallas, Texas. In 2022, she received the Ambassador Award from the National Black Nurse Practitioner Association, in addition to receiving the 2022 Estelle Osborne Legacy Award from the New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing.