



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

UKRAINE



Population: 47,425,336

Current Directory:

Printed version
 Online version
 None identified x

Key Contact/National Association

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Palliative Care Services

NK = not known

Number of Palliative Care Services						
	Inpatient Palliative Care Units	Hospices	Consultant Teams in Hospitals	Home Care Teams	Day Centres	Total
Adult/Children	4	10	0	1	0	15
Paediatric only	1	1	0	1	0	3
				Inpatient Palliative Care Units/ hospices	Chronic Hospitals /Nursing Homes	Total
Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients				600	100	700
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				0	0	0

Comments/Sources

- Palliative care services data are estimates only.
- There are two freestanding and two hospital inpatient palliative care units.
- There is no organized palliative care within Ukraine. However, there are approximately 10 palliative care teams and hospices which are not connected to each other and which exist due to the enthusiasm of social organizations.
- There are approximately 10 departments of nursing care, which are an integral part



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of regional oncology dispensaries.

- There are a small number of mobile teams in Donetsk, Kharkov and Lviv. These units lack finance and operate under uncomfortable and difficult conditions due to the absence of a systematic study of palliative care.
- Day centres exist as governmental institutions within AIDS centres in each region of the Ukraine (26 regions).
- There is a small hospice for children in Kiev which was opened under the initiative of a private investor from Europe.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Adult Palliative Care Population

NK	of patients receiving palliative care have a cancer diagnosis
NK	of patients receiving palliative care have other incurable conditions
	Cancer (n)
Number of patients who die at home	NK 8349
Number of patients who die in a general hospital	NK 1606
Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions	NK 305

Comments/Sources

- Place of death data is based on all illnesses (not just cancer). It is not possible to obtain such information for Ukraine as a whole, so the statistics provided are for the Donetsk region only (2003). This region has a population of 1.2 million people (Ukraine has 26 regions with a population of approximately 47 million people).
- Accordingly to the statistic reports, 5 % of Ukrainians dye in medical institutions, 85 % at home, and 10 % in other places. But places where they could meet the death with dignity (hospices) in Ukraine are lacking presently.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

[Press-release about the working meeting on the chaplaincy in palliative care and the World day of the hospice and palliative care day (7th October, 2006)]

Palliative Care Workforce Capacity

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	0	0	0
Nurses	0	0	0
Social Workers	0	0	0
Psychologists	0	0	0
Physiotherapists	0	0	0
Occupational Therapists	0	0	0
Spiritual/Faith leaders	0	0	0
Volunteers	0	0	0

Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Funding of palliative care services

Total number of palliative care services funded by the government	NK
Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO's	NK

Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]



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Perceived use of main opioids in palliative care		
Order of frequency	Opioid	Estimated cost per month (€)
First opioid	Omnopon.	20\$
Second opioid	Promedol.	20\$
Third opioid	Morphine.	20\$
Comments/Sources		
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]		

Key issues and challenges

- Unfortunately, Ukraine experiences the epidemics of HIV / AIDS actually. In numerous civilized countries the network of hospices for those who dies from AIDS is formed already. In Ukraine, accordingly to official reports (which lessen the sad ciphers) about 5.000 persons died with AIDS.
- One of the biggest obstacles for developing a hospice system in the Ukraine is the very low level of both public and medical professional awareness of palliative care.
- Psychological, social, and cultural concerns are usually disregarded and bereavement support services are totally absent.
- There is no production, import, or distribution of many drugs which could be used for cancer pain control; for example, immediate and slow release oral morphine, codeine and trans-dermal fentanyl are not readily available within the Ukraine.
- Existing under-graduate and post-graduate doctor and nurse education does not include a palliative care course.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

[Press-release about the working meeting on the chaplaincy in palliative care and the World day of the hospice and palliative care day (7th October, 2006)]

Palliative care accreditation

- Specialist accreditation for palliative care professionals in the Ukraine was provided on courses of palliative care organised by the British Russian Hospice Society in November 2000 (34 people received certificates). One doctor in the Ukraine possesses a diploma in palliative care.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative care milestones

- *1994:* 'Hospice' is included in the Ministry of Health list of medical establishments in the Ukraine.
- *1997:* Ministry of Health Declaration No. 356 relating to the registration and delivery of strong opioids is published.
- *1999:* The Donetsk Regional Oncological Centre opens with a nursing team for patients with advanced disease and a volunteer home care team. It is also the base for the first Ukrainian Palliative Care Teaching Centre, at the Donetsk State Medical University.
- *2004:* The Association of Minimally Invasive & Palliative Therapy translates and publishes the Council of Europe (2003) report on palliative care (Recommendation 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the organization of palliative care). The report is distributed to hospital superintendents to improve awareness about palliative care and the hospice



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movement.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

Health policy

- The ongoing economic crisis in the Ukraine is a big problem for the development of hospice care within the country.
- The implementation of hospice networks tends to be "from the top-down" by government authorities.
- The Government supports the idea of palliative care, but the concept is still not developed in the Ukraine, and there is a lack of successful implementation of hospice services.
- The Association of Minimally Invasive & Palliative Therapy has not participated in any way in the Council of Europe discussions about euthanasia (the Marty Report).
- At the current time, there are no initiatives in the Ukraine that seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide.
- In the last years, the numerous letters of the Ukrainian patients directed to the All-Ukrainian Council on patients' rights and security (<http://www.medlaw.org.ua>) encouraged the Council to start the project "Development of the palliative care in Ukraine". The Initiative found the understanding and support of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of social affairs and the "Renaissance" Foundation. The Task Force on the palliative care was formed. On July, 6th 2006 the Order of Ministry of Health was issued (#201) about the forming of the Multidisciplinary Task Force on Palliative Care. Accordingly to the Order, it unites 21 Ukrainian experts on Hospice / Palliative Care. But it can involve other (additional) experts / specialists, too.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

[Press-release about the working meeting on the chaplaincy in palliative care and the World day of the hospice and palliative care day (7th October, 2006)]

References

Clark, D., and Wright, M. (2003) *Transitions in End of Life Care. Hospice and related developments in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*. Buckingham: Open University Press, 2003, pp. 167-173, Ukraine.

Gronemeyer, R., Fink, M., Globisch, M., and Schumann, F. (2005) *Helfen am ende des lebens hospizarbeit und palliative care in Europa*. Giessen: Hospiz und Hospizbewegung, p. 272-286, Ukraina.

http://www.eolc-observatory.net/global_analysis/ukraine.htm

Information correct as at: 7th August 2006



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