

Response ID ANON-PEFR-6RA5-B

Submitted to Review of access to palliative care services - Organisations/Health professionals

Submitted on 2024-11-21 01:38:25

Consent

1 The Committee for Health would like your permission to publish your response as part of the survey results. Please indicate your preference.

Consent:

Publish response.

Who are you?

2 What is your name?

Name:

Nicola McCrudden

3 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

4 Are you a healthcare professional?If yes, what is your role:If no, what is your interest in palliative care services:

Yes

1500 Characters:

I am a Registered Nurse I work for Marie Curie.

5 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Marie Curie

6 Do you currently work in palliative care services?If Yes, in what capacity?

Yes

1500 characters:

I work as a Registered Nurse.

current state of palliative care services

7 In your view what is the current state of palliative care services in Northern Ireland?

Neither

8 Do you think there is an understanding by the public of what palliative care is?If no, what are the main barriers to the public understanding palliative care?

No

1500 Characters:

I feel that the public think that palliative care is just care of the dying.

Main barriers are education of what is available and what could improve quality of life for palliative patients

Access to services

9 Are palliative care services equally accessible to all who need them?

No

10 From your experience where are the gaps in the provision of service?

1500 characters:

Nowadays more and more people are choosing to be at home as their preferred place of death. Relatives and family members require much support to facilitate this wish,

There is a shortage of appropriately trained staff to assist with care of people at home.

District Nurses are pushed to their limit.

I feel there should be teams of staff trained in palliative and end of life care to support these people in the community.

11 Do you believe barriers exist that prevent equitable access to these services? If yes, please provide examples in the box provided.

Yes

1500 characters:

Specialist staff for palliative and end of life patients.

If a patient chooses to be at home for end of life families need support and perhaps these specialist staff could have a caseload to relieve district nurses.

12 What additional services could/should be provided?

1500 Characters:

Specialist staff

A team of staff to deal with specific areas for these patients eg : syringe drivers

Integration of Services

13 How well are palliative care services integrated across the health system, through primary, secondary and specialist care?

1500 characters:

They are integrated quite well at present but there are not enough.

District Nurses are stretched to their limit and they are currently covering palliative care patients also.

14 Should palliative care be a regional service? Please outline your reasons in the box provided.

Not sure

1500 characters:

Different TRusts have different policies if these were all consistent then a regional service would be suitable but not otherwise

15 What can be done to improve integration?

1500 characters:

More staff

Regional policies

Specific staff for provision of palliative and end of life care

Best Practice

16 Do you have any examples of good practice or pilots in palliative care that are meeting the needs of patients and families/carers? If so, is this best practice happening widely across Northern Ireland?

1500 Characters:

17 Do you think that families receive sufficient support when accessing services? Please outline your reasons in the box provided.

Not sure

1500 Characters:

In certain areas - yes and in others No

This is dictated by the district nurses workload.

Families have told me they feel that district nurses are too busy and cannot spend time needed to explain what to expect going forward.

I feel this is very sad as the patient has chosen to be at home and the family members need support to facilitate this.

Funding and Strategy

18 Do you think the current funding for palliative care is sufficient?Please outline your reasons in the box provided.

No

1500 characters:

Not enough Marie Curie Nurses to fulfill the demand

19 Is the current model for the funding of hospices, including hospice at home/community care/rapid response support, sustainable and sufficient to meet needs now and in the future?Please outline your reasons in the box provided.

Not sure

1500 characters:

20 Is there a need for a new Palliative Care Strategy for Northern Ireland? If yes, what should it include? If no, why not?Please outline your reasons in the box provided

Yes

1500 characters:

Joined up approach for all trusts

Policies and procedures to be consistent.

Specialist teams for palliative and end of life care and not just add these patients to Domicillary care and District Nursing case loads

Any other comments

21 Any other comments

1500 characters:

I have been nursing for 46 years I have seen many patients die young and old and one thing that always hits home with me is

You only get one chance to assist the patient and their family to have a 'good experience of death'

People only die once and if death is not handled properly then the impact of it can have lasting effects for the patients relatives.

This requires well trained skilled staff who are empathetic to the situation