

Response ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Review of access to palliative care services - Organisations/Health professionals
Submitted on 2024-12-12 15:22:31

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 my response but keep it anonymous.

Who are you?

2 What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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:

District Nurse Sister

5 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

[REDACTED]

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

No

1500 characters:

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?

Yes

1500 Characters:

However may be associated wrongly with end of life care

Access to services

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

Not sure

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

1500 characters:

Lack of experienced staff being available for urgent matters.

Within District Nursing always having to prioritise work which includes palliative care within a general caseload which is very busy

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:

People just not being reached in a timely manner through difficulties with obtaining GP appointments and being able to access what is needed when it is needed .

12 What additional services could/should be provided?

1500 Characters:

More professionals everywhere available and able to respond swiftly

Necessary mentoring of new and junior staff .

Training available as required for all healthcare professionals.

Integration of Services

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

1500 characters:

Quite well again just availability for staff for reviews and advice can be difficult to reach when needed .

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

Not sure

1500 characters:

15 What can be done to improve integration?

1500 characters:

District Nursing is expected to cross so many specialisms .

Palliative Care would be well placed especially with reviews in the hands of those who are part of the specialist service with a link in where necessary .

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:

Some GP practices have palliative meetings which involve District Nursing staff but again staff resources limit ability to attend these on many occasions

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

Yes

1500 Characters:

District Nurses provide as much information as possible and try to signpost in certain directions .

Again regularly checking in with these families would be important

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:

Everyone is aware that Health care is always overspent and Palliative Care is part of this .

So with more money more care and investment into Palliative Care can happen

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.

No

1500 characters:

These services are always heavily overworked and overused but very much needed especially if it makes more sense that Palliative Care mostly takes place at home.

Additional money is always required

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

Not sure

1500 characters:

If we can provide all that was currently in current strategy we will be doing well .

Money needs to be spent on the provision of a professional high quality responsive service close to the patient in their own communities which overall.helps to ease the burden on the patients and their families

Any other comments

21 Any other comments

1500 characters:

In the face of death we all should deserve the best that can be given .