Palliative and end of life care for older people: the options.

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This presentation will explore:

- Strategies and guidelines that guide palliative and end of life care for older people and their family/whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand.

- How services for older people and specialist palliative care services can, and do, work together to meet the needs of older people and their family and family/whānau.
Respectful end of life goals

- The health system responds to older people’s goals and care needs at the end stages of life and to the needs of their families, whānau, caregivers and friends involved in their end-of-life care.
- All health care teams are responsive to the cultural needs of different groups.
- Health service providers coordinate palliative care to ensure all providers in the health system are used to their fullest. All of those who support people dying in old age are aware of the dying person’s plans and know their own role in achieving those plans.
- People die feeling as comfortable and safe as possible.
- Expert advice and support is available to families and whānau, other carers and the health workforce involved in end-of-life care.
Palliative Care Action Plan
Ministry of Health (March 2017)

In the future, people who need palliative care will live well and die well. They will have confidence that at the end of their life they and their loved ones, if needed, will have access to high-quality palliative care that is consistent across all settings. People will have the support they need for a respectful end of life, so that they are cared for physically, culturally and spiritually, and die, in an environment that feels safe and comfortable.
Outlines essential components and considerations required to promote quality care at the end of life for all adults in New Zealand.

From the perspective of the person receiving care and the family/whānau, the attending health practitioner, the clinical service/organisation and the wider health system (DHB and MoH).
Te Ara Whakapiri: Toolkit
Ministry of Health (April 2017)

Seven overarching principles are underpinned by Te Whare Tapa Whā, a model of care that is concerned with the total wellbeing of the person and their family/whānau.

1. Care is patient-centred and holistic.
2. The health care workforce is appropriately educated and is supported by clinical champions.
3. Communication is clear and respectful.
4. Services are integrated.
5. Services are sustainable.
6. Services are nationally driven and supported to reduce variation and enhance flexibility.
7. Resources and equipment are consistently accessible.
33.9% of all deaths occur in a public hospital, with 31.4% in residential care. Note that the figure of 6.2% is for hospice inpatient unit deaths only, not all hospice involvement. 22.3% of all deaths occur in a private residence.

Data Source: Ministry of Health MORT data 2000-2013 Kindly provided by H. MacLeod
Over the period there has been a proportional decline in deaths in public hospital and other settings, with a substantial increase in the proportion of deaths in residential care.

Data Source: Ministry of Health MORT data 2000-2013

Kindly provided by H. MacLeod
What do we know and what does the data and literature say?

- Ageing – numbers and demographics
- Changing disease patterns
- Changes in co-morbidity patterns
- Dementia
- Complexity
- Choice
- Safety
- Demands on the services and providers
- Funding
- Technology and care management options

Need for joint working and interface
What is already happening?

- Innovation funding – new projects and initiatives
- Clinical support, advice and assessment
- Education – Hospice New Zealand programmes and more
- Practice sharing/placements
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Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.

Vincent Van Gogh
References


