

## ALBANIA



### Current Directory:

Printed version

Online version

None identified x

### National Association/Key Contact

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## Palliative Care Services

Number of Palliative Care Services						
	Inpatient Palliative Care Units	Hospices	Consultant Teams in Hospitals	Home Care Teams	Day Centres	Total
Adult/Children	0	1	0	4	0	5
Paediatric only	0	0	0	0	0	0
				Inpatient Palliative Care Units	Chronic Hospitals /Nursing Homes	Total
Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients				0	10	10
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				0	0	0

### Comments/Sources

- There are no inpatient palliative care units, hospital care teams or day centres in Albania.
- There is 1 Ryder Care Hospice in Tirana with 10 beds.
- There are 4 Home Care Teams in Tirana, Durrës (Ryder Care Albania) Korce (Korce Family Healthcare Centre – Palliative Centre) and AVICENA Pogradec.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

## Adult Palliative Care Population



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-	of patients receiving palliative care have a cancer diagnosis	
-	of patients receiving palliative care have other incurable conditions	
	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>(n)</b>
Number of patients who die at home	-	-
Number of patients who die in a general hospital	-	-
Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions	-	-

### Comments/Sources

- No information is available. However, palliative care teams work mainly with cancer patients. Most of the palliative care patients die at home.**

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

### Palliative Care Workforce Capacity

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	8	1	9
Nurses	20	4	24
Social Workers	2	0	2
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

[Association of Albanian Palliative Care]

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

### Funding of palliative care services

Total number of palliative care services funded by the government	0
Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO's	100%

### Comments/Sources

- Palliative Care is not included in the National Health Scheme. The teams working on Palliative Care in Albania are funded by international funds.**

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

### Perceived use of main opioids in palliative care

Order of frequency	Opioid	Estimated cost per month (€)
First opioid	Hydrochloride Morphine 10 mg	3600 Lek/month
Second opioid	Morphine Sulphate 10mg	3600 Lek/month
Third opioid	-	-

### Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

### Key issues and challenges

- The extension of palliative care to all the big cities of Albania.
- Increased availability of strong opioids from the Institute of Health.
- Training for Primary Care Services (family doctors and nurses) about standards of Palliative Care.
- The continuance of hospice work to cover the most specific cases.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]



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### Palliative care accreditation

- “Palliative Care is a new specialty in Albania. There is no accreditation for palliative care professionals, either nurses or doctors. Yet accreditation of the professionals and staff training is essential in order to have the specialists available that are able to run professional services.”

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

### Palliative care milestones

- 2002: The "Sue Ryder Care" association builds the first hospice in Tirana.
- 2002: All governed and non governed associations meet together and form the “Albanian Palliative Care Association”.

**Dr. Kristo Huta, President of the Albanian Palliative Care Association.**  
(EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005)

### Health policy

- Work experience and training in palliative care have helped to increase the quality of service at different levels and in different cities throughout Albania.
- No palliative care service existed before 2000. In April 2002, Ryder Albania built the first hospice centre.
- During the period 2002-2005 the centre has helped approximately 120 patients.
- This policy had not been proposed from governmental institutions. Palliative organisations on their own initiative created this centre, supported by external donations.
- The Albanian Palliative Care Association has not participated in Council of Europe discussions about euthanasia.
- There are no initiatives in Albanian legalisation relating to euthanasia or assisted suicide.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

### References

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