

## ARMENIA



**Population:** 2,976,372

### Current Directory:

Printed version

Online version [www.hakacav.am](http://www.hakacav.am)

None identified

### Key Contact/National Association

#### Key contact:

Narine Movsisyan,  
Armenian Pain Control and Palliative Care Association,  
Kievyan st 12,  
Apt. 20,  
Yerevan,  
Armenia.

Telephone: + (374010) 270137

Email: [armpallmed@yahoo.com](mailto:armpallmed@yahoo.com)

#### National Association:

Hrant H. Karapetyan,  
President,  
Armenian Pain Control & Palliative Care Association,  
27 M. Khorenatsy str.,  
App. 85,  
Yerevan,  
375010,  
Armenia.

Telephone: + (374091) 213-214

Email: [HrantKarapetyan@yahoo.com](mailto:HrantKarapetyan@yahoo.com)

## 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	5	1	10	8	5	29
Paediatric only	1	0	2	1	0	4
				Inpatient Palliative Care Units/hospices	Chronic Hospitals/Nursing Homes	Total
Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients				30	29	59
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				1	1	2

### Comments/Sources

- Number of palliative care services is an estimate only.
- Three regional palliative care services for adults are to be developed in the three largest regions of Armenia.
- There are five paediatric palliative care beds within the existing structure of the National Oncology Centre.

[Annual report of Armenian Pain Control & Palliative Care Association]

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]



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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	25000	120
Number of patients who die in a general hospital	6000	NK
Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions	NK	NK

### Comments/Sources

- Numbers of patients who die at home/in a general hospital are estimates only.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative Care Workforce Capacity			
	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	15	5	20
Nurses	20	10	30
Social Workers	NK	NK	5
Psychologists	NK	NK	5
Physiotherapists	NK	NK	6
Occupational Therapists	NK	NK	5
Spiritual/Faith leaders	NK	NK	5
Volunteers	NK	NK	NK

### Comments/Sources

- All palliative care workforce capacity figures are estimates only.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Funding of palliative care services	
Total number of palliative care services funded by the government	1
Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO's	5

### Comments/Sources

- The number of palliative care services supported by a combination of private and public funds is not known.

[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	Morphine sulphate	\$ 0.6 / amp
Second opioid	Omnopon	\$ 0.5 / amp
Third opioid	Promedol	\$ 0.5 / amp
Comments/Sources		
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]		

Key issues and challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absence of "Palliative Care" core course in the "Index Medicus."</li> <li>Absence of standards on provision of palliative care.</li> <li>Absence of state support.</li> <li>To increase public awareness on palliative care and pain management.</li> </ul>



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- The public demand for palliative care and pain management. At present, about 1,500 patients need daily palliative care and pain management services, but only 30-40% of them are provided with it.
- Government prohibition on the use of opioids.
- The high price of opioids.
- Strong opioids are not produced in Armenia and cannot be imported.

**[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]**

### **Palliative care accreditation**

- “There is no specialist accreditation for palliative care professionals in Armenia at the present time (there is only one accredited specialist in the whole country).”

**[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]**

### **Palliative care milestones**

- 2003: The Armenian Pain Control & Palliative Care Association is established.
- 2004: The Armenian Pain Control & Palliative Care Association marks the publication of the Council of Europe (2003) report on palliative care (Recommendation 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the organisation of palliative care) through meetings with public health authorities to explain that Armenia (as one of the consignees to the report) has to implement the recommendations' requirements and provisions. However, the Government position is that the document is merely a recommendation and does not have legislative status in Armenia.

**[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]**

### **Health policy**

- Being a country with limited resources, Armenia has been unable to organize a system of services for patients in need of pain management and palliative care, or to open hospices in all regions of the country.
- There is an agreement with the National Oncology Center to establish a 'Republican Centre of Pain Management and Palliative Care'. A series of specialist seminars on training in pain management and palliative care have been organised in relation to the establishment of this centre.
- The Armenian Pain Control & Palliative Care Association has initiated the organization of pain management and palliative care at home. Based on this structure, a pain management and palliative care service will provide high quality multidisciplinary palliative care in Armenia with the minimum level of expense.
- The oncological service is one of the most advanced and well organized structures within the system of public health care in Armenia. Therefore, a system of pain management and palliative care may be established on the basis of existing substructures of oncological services. This provides an opportunity to utilise the capacities of existing services without significant investment.
- Despite the fact that the palliative care service will be established within the structure of oncological services, it will serve not only to patients with oncological diseases, but to all those who are in need of palliative care regardless of the etiology of the disease.
- At the initial stage, the Armenian Pain Control & Palliative Care Association



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can provide paid services to cover financial expenses (excluding socially unprotected groups of the population).

- Legislative recommendations have been developed to improve and expand the use of opioids.
- The Armenian Pain Control & Palliative Care Association 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 Armenia that seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

### References

**N.B.** For further information on the status of palliative care services in Armenia, please see:

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. 121-124, Armenia.

[http://www.eolc-observatory.net/global\\_analysis/armenia.htm](http://www.eolc-observatory.net/global_analysis/armenia.htm)

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