

## BELARUS



**Population:** 10,300,483

### Current Directory:

Printed version

Online version

None identified x

### Key Contact/National Association

#### Key contact:

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## 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	0	0	1	1	0	2
Paediatric only	1	3	1	5	0	10
				Inpatient Palliative Care Units/hospices	Chronic Hospitals/Nursing Homes	Total
Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients				0	0	0
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				0	2	2

### Comments/Sources

- Belarusian Children's Hospice (with Hilfswerk Austria/TACIS support) started a new programme to create the first mobile palliative care service for adults in the Republic of Belarus. This programme has been open since 1st April, 2005.
- There are no beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients in the Republic of Belarus. However, there are 25 social beds in Minsk and 20 social beds in every other region that provide some form of palliative care.
- There are three separate paediatric hospices in Gomel, Mogilev and Vitebsk; there are two programmes of palliative care in Pinsk and Gomel; there is one National

## Centre of Palliative Care in Minsk.

- Bereavement support for both individuals and groups has been provided at PCO “Belarusian Children’s hospice” since 1999. There are plans to organize educational training for regional staff in different regions of Belarus.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

## Adult Palliative Care Population

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

## Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

## Palliative Care Workforce Capacity

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	3	6	9
Nurses	20	23	43
Social Workers	NK	NK	6
Psychologists	NK	NK	5
Physiotherapists	NK	NK	1
Occupational Therapists	NK	NK	0
Spiritual/Faith leaders	NK	NK	1
Volunteers	NK	NK	50

## Comments/Sources

- One palliative care physician works full time with children; two work full-time with adults.
- One palliative care physician works part-time with adults; five work part time with children.
- Number of volunteers is an estimate only.

[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	4

## Comments/Sources

- All palliative care services are non-governmental charitable organizations. However, they all work in close collaboration with the government.

[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	Tramal	1,5\$ per 5 ampoules
Second opioid	Promedol	4,5\$ per 10 ampoules
Third opioid	Morphine	2,6 \$ per 10 ampoules

## Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]



## EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

### Key issues and challenges

- Lack of information about palliative care, its standards and application.
- Lack of highly skilled palliative care specialists.
- Lack of documents on the use of drugs in palliative care (for example, about the effects of morphine).
- The stereotype that strong opioids equal dependence.

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

### Palliative care accreditation

- The Belarusian Children's Hospice is an educational base for students of the post-graduate education institute. Periodically, palliative care lectures and training are organized for staff and regional specialists. The course on palliative care for doctors and nurses was established in 2000 under the initiative of Mrs. Anna Garchakova.

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

### Palliative care milestones

- 1994: PCO "Belarusian children's hospice" is established.
- 1998: The World Health Organization document "*Cancer pain relief and palliative care in children*" is translated into Russian and distributed to hospitals and oncologic dispensaries.
- 2000: Gomel children's hospice is established on the initiative of the Belarusian Children's Hospice.
- 2002: Vitebsk children's hospice is established on the initiative of the Belarusian Children's Hospice.
- 2003: Mogilev children's hospice is established on the initiative of the Belarusian Children's Hospice.
- 2004: Pinsk children's hospice is established on the initiative of the Belarusian Children's Hospice.
- 2004: PCO "Belarusian children's hospice" mark 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) by including the document in palliative care lectures which take place at the hospice.
- 2005: Belarusian Children's Hospice (with Hilfswerk Austria/TACIS support) starts a new programme to create the first mobile palliative care service for adults in the Republic of Belarus.

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

### Health policy

- Public organizations have collaborated with local health care services and hospitals to develop hospice services for adults.
- The hospice movement will continue to progress at a slow pace until the government recognises palliative care as a branch of public health service.
- PCO "Belarusian children's hospice" has not participated in any way in the Council of Europe discussions about euthanasia (the Marty Report).
- At the current time, are there no initiatives in the Republic of Belarus that seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide.

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



## EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

### References

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

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. 129-132, Belarus.

Dangel T. *Belarussian viewpoint. The Belarus Children's Hospice*. Eur J Palliat Care 1999 Jan-Feb; 6(1): 28-30.

Costello J, Gorchakova A. *Palliative care for children in the Republic of Belarus*. Int J Palliat Nurs. 2004 Apr;10(4):197-200.

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