

HUNGARY



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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	10	1	4	28	2	45
Paediatric only	0	0	0	0	0	0
				Inpatient Palliative Care Units/Hospices	Chronic Hospitals /Nursing Homes	Total
Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients				143	0	143
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				2	0	2

Comments/Sources

- There are a further five inpatient palliative care units and 46 adult palliative care inpatient beds in nursing homes.
- The Palliative care service for children in Bethesda Hospital, Budapest worked from 1995 to 2003. It closed in 2003 because there were not enough patients. There is now no paediatric hospice in Hungary.
- Hungary has a very good system for bereavement support teams, involving 120 hours of training. A lot of psychologists and nurses working in palliative care are trained in bereavement support.

[Hospice statistical questionnaire (2004), Hungarian Hospice-Palliative Association]



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[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Adult Palliative Care Population

89%	of patients receiving palliative care have a cancer diagnosis		
11%	of patients receiving palliative care have other incurable conditions		
		Cancer	(n)
Number of patients who die at home		1,353	61%
Number of patients who die in a general hospital		660	30%
Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions		190	9%

Comments/Sources

- In 2003 2,203 patients received care by Palliative Care institutions.
- Figures refer to all palliative care patients (not just cancer).
- Hospice statistical questionnaire (2003), Hungarian Hospice-Palliative Association.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative Care Workforce Capacity

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	15	45	60
Nurses	150	260	410
Social Workers	-	-	30
Psychologists	-	-	36
Physiotherapists	-	-	60
Occupational Therapists	-	-	10
Spiritual/Faith leaders	-	-	25
Volunteers	-	-	105

Comments/Sources

- All palliative Care Workforce Capacity figures are based on estimates.
- Hospice statistical questionnaire (2004), Hungarian Hospice-Palliative Association.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Funding of palliative care services

Total number of palliative care services funded by the government	45
Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO's	3

Comments/Sources

- The government covers approximately 50% of the cost of palliative care in Hungary.
- Services also need other sources e.g. local governmental support and grants (Soros, Phare, Ministries, Parliament, European Union, donations, etc.)
- Hospice statistical questionnaire (2004), Hungarian Hospice-Palliative Association.

[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	MST	-
Second opioid	Fentanyl	-
Third opioid	Depriol (methadone)	-

Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Key issues and challenges

- A lack of acceptable financing has weakened many organizations, and some of them have changed the direction of their activity.
- There is often not enough money to start and maintain palliative care programmes (especially inpatient units).
- There is a lack of well trained palliative experts in the country.
- There is a lack of adequate knowledge and experience amongst many physicians in relation to the prescribing of strong opioids.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

Palliative care accreditation

“A national training program for Palliative Care, organized by the Hungarian Hospice-Palliative Association was accredited by the Ministry of Health and includes a basic course spanning 40 hours as well as an advanced course of 40 hours. Since 1994, more than 3200 people have participated in these courses. Nine textbooks, a number of specialised literatures and the *Kharon Thanatological Revue* were published. Curricula, guidelines and standards for palliative care (for example WHO-standards, Council of Europe documents etc.) have been translated into Hungarian. Additionally a one-year post-graduate educational programme for nurses exists, which, following a law decreed in June 2001 by the Ministry of Health, began in 2002.”

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative care milestones

- 1991: The Hungarian hospice movement is founded.
- 1994-95: Hospice teams begin to form with the help of the Soros Foundation.
- 1994: Oral retard morphine, tramadol and dihydrocodeine are available free of charge to cancer patients.
- 1997: Hungarian Health Law declares the human right of palliative care, and defines hospice care.
- 2000: Regional and nationwide campaigns against pain are organized by the Cancer League and Hungarian Hospice Palliative Association.
- 2002: A detailed palliative care guideline is launched which deals not only with professional but also constitutional and financial aspects of palliative care.
- 2004: The Health Ministry launches the *hospice minimum condition* which gives official licences and special financing.
- 2004: There is a new hospice financing system which takes the whole hospice team into account.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

Health policy

- The Council of Europe report on palliative care (Recommendation Rec (2003) 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the organisation of palliative care) was translated and edited by the Hungarian Hospice Palliative Association in October 2004 with the participation of many journalists.
- Hungary has not participated in any way in the Council of Europe discussions about euthanasia (the Marty Report).
- There are no initiatives in Hungary that seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide.



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[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

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