

LITHUANIA



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None identified x

Key Contact/National Association

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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	6	0	1	3	0	10
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				52	0	52
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				0	0	0

Comments/Sources

Lithuania has no policy in respect to the development of palliative care; the country only has some elements of palliative care. Therefore, there are no adult hospices and no palliative care institutions for children. However, there are some services which try to work according to the principles of palliative care:

1. A mobile palliative care team in the Oncological Institute of Vilnius University (physician, nurse, social worker and priest - source of information: Irena Povilonienė, Vilnius University, Oncologic Center);
2. Kaunas Nursing Hospital (45 beds, 8 of which are for palliative care: physician, nurse, social worker, chaplain, kinesietherapist, dietician, pharmacist and volunteers - source of information: Rita Kabašinskiene);
3. St. Clara Nursing Hospital (52beds, 11 of which are for palliative care: physician,

nurse, social worker, kinesietherapist, masseur, pastoral service worker - source of information: Auksė Strolienė);
4. Panevėžys Nursing Hospital (102 beds, 6 of which are palliative care beds - source of information: Regina Leivienė);
5. Kaunas Red Cross Nursing Hospital (140 beds, 12 of which are for palliative care - source of information: Stanislava Jancevičienė);
6. Kaunas K. Grinius Nursing Hospital (100 beds, 5 of which are for palliative care - source of information: Laima Geduškaitė);
7. Oncological Hospital Branch of the Kaunas Medical University Clinic (60 beds, 10 of which are for palliative care - source of information: Dalia Skorupskienė);
8. The Centre of Integrated help in Panevėžys, which provides outpatient and home palliative care (physician, nurse, social worker - source of information: Raimonda Ulianskienė).
9. The project “Home Palliative Care” in charitable organization Caritas (one nurse, one social worker, and volunteers - source of information: Lidiya Škudienė).
10. Office of the Lutheran-Evangelic Community “Vilniaus Sandora”, which provides home palliative care (physician, nurse, volunteers).
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Adult Palliative Care Population		
-	of patients receiving palliative care have a cancer diagnosis	
-	of patients receiving palliative care have other incurable conditions	
	Cancer	(n)
Number of patients who die at home	4,505	24,529
Number of patients who die in a general hospital	3,455	16,811
Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions	391	-

Comments/Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terminally ill patients are admitted to different healthcare institutions, but the largest number is admitted into nursing and long-term hospitals. <p>www.isic.lt kancerreg@is.lt</p> <p>[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]</p>

Palliative Care Workforce Capacity			
	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	9	0	9
Nurses	20	0	20
Social Workers	0	9	9
Psychologists	0	0	0
Physiotherapists	0	0	0
Occupational Therapists	0	0	0
Spiritual/Faith leaders	0	0	3
Volunteers	0	0	35

Comments/Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no psychologists, physiotherapists or occupational therapists because of a lack of finance. The tradition of volunteering is only increasing very slowly. <p>[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]</p>

Funding of palliative care services	
Total number of palliative care services funded by the government	8
Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO's	2

Comments/Sources



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

- “Home Palliative care” is funded by the charitable organization *Caritas* and the office of the Lutheran-Evangelic Community. The project “Vilniaus Sandora” is funded by the community.

[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 (s/c)	27.1 EUROS
Second opioid	Morphine (p/o)	18.78 EUROS
Third opioid	Fentanyl	73 EUROS

Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Key issues and challenges

- No legal documents designed for palliative care.
- Lack of funding for palliative care from the government.
- Lack of attention to palliative care from the government.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

Palliative care accreditation

- “There are no palliative care specialists in Lithuania. However, in 2005, a post-graduate palliative care course was established. Kaunas Medical University organizes undergraduate palliative care courses for nurses and social workers two or three times a year, and also local or regional conferences of palliative care. The Lithuanian Centre of Professional Training and Specialization of Nurses have organized courses for nurses (“Nursing of the dying patient” and “Nursing of aged people”) which take place in Kaunas Nursing Hospital.”

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative care milestones

- 1995: The Palliative Medicine Association of Lithuania is established; the Association of Pain is established; the law of prescription and control of opioids is ratified; the WHO document “Symptom Relief in Terminal Illness” is translated into Lithuanian.
- 2003: 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) is translated and published in Lithuanian.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

Health policy

- The Palliative Medicine Association of Lithuania has prepared a draft of a national palliative care standard.
- The Ministry of Health has issued a law concerning prescription and control of strong opioids.
- The Palliative Medicine Association of Lithuania has not participated in any way in the Council of Europe discussions about euthanasia (the Marty Report).



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

- There are no initiatives in Lithuania to seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide at the present time.
- A work group has been established in the Ministry of Health (together with the Palliative Care Association) in order to prepare draft requirements for palliative care intervention.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

References

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Information correct as at: 7th August 2006

