

LUXEMBOURG



Population: 468,571

Current Directory:

Printed version

Online version

None identified x

Key Contact/National Association

Key contact:

Marie-France Liefgen,
Nursing teacher specialised in oncology and palliative care,
Lycée Technique pour Professions de Santé,
27 rue Barblé,
L-1210,
Luxembourg.
Telephone: +352 36 62 79
Email: marie-france.liefgen@education.lu

National Association:

Michel Keilen,
Project-leader,
Omega 90,
138, rue Adolphe Fischer,
L-1521,
Luxembourg.
Telephone: +352 29 77 89 - 1
Email: michelkeilen@omega90.lu

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	1	0	1	2	0	4
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				8	31	39
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				1	0	0

Comments/Sources

- A further four hospitals have a mixed oncology/palliative care unit, in which a total of 31 beds is reserved for palliative care patients.
- Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients is an estimate only.
- Most children who require palliative care are treated in Belgium.
- Omega 90 provides bereavement support. Although support is provided mainly to adults, some support is also provided for adolescents and children.

[omega90@pt.lu]

[Luxembourg Ministry of Health]

[Telephone calls to the directors of all the hospitals/nursing homes in Luxembourg]

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

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	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	0	13	13
Nurses	35	45	80
Social Workers	1	0	1
Psychologists	4	0	4
Physiotherapists	0	0	0
Occupational Therapists	0	0	0
Spiritual/Faith leaders	0	0	0
Volunteers	0	110	110

Comments/Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palliative care workforce capacity data are estimates only. • There are also physicians in nursing homes/home care who provide some form of palliative care. • There are also two pedagogues working full time in palliative care teams (one at Omega 90, another in a palliative home care team). • 110 volunteers have completed a 112 hour palliative care training programme; approximately 60 of these volunteers are part of palliative care teams. <p>[Telephone calls to the directors of all the hospitals/nursing homes in Luxembourg] [omega90@pt.lu] [EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]</p>

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

Comments/Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hospital palliative care services are funded by the Ministry of Health. • Omega 90 and the two palliative home care services are partially funded by the government (Ministry of Health and Ministry of Family) and partially by private funds (donations). • The Ministry of Family pays the salaries of Omega 90 employees (a director, three nurses, two psychologists, one social worker, one pedagogue and two secretaries / 7.5 equivalent full time jobs) and covers most of the functional costs of the organisation. <p>[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]</p>

Perceived use of main opioids in palliative care		
Order of frequency	Opioid	Estimated cost per month (€)
First opioid	Durogesic	NK



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

Second opioid	MS-Direct	NK
Third opioid	MS-Contin.	NK
Comments/Sources		
[Data provided by hospital nursing directors, palliative care nurses and the Union of Health Insurances]		
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]		

Key issues and challenges

- There are plenty of individual palliative care initiatives, but there is a lack of a national coordination board.
- Despite optimal national availability of strong opioids, there is a lack of education about specific pharmacology amongst doctors and nurses.
- Prejudices and taboos relating to opioids (among doctors, nurses, patients and families).
- The absence of a medical research university in Luxembourg.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

Palliative care accreditation

- There is no specialist accreditation for palliative care professionals in Luxembourg at the present time. However, there are a number of palliative care training courses. In 2004, the Ministry of Health organised 14 pain relief and palliative care training sessions for physicians - 76 physicians attended these training units.
- In the last 13 years, about 350 nurses have each completed 130 hours of palliative care training organised by Omega 90. Approximately 60 volunteers are involved in palliative care teams and have supervision sessions organized by Omega 90.

[Ministry of Health, 02.07.2004]

[omega90@pt.lu]

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative care milestones

- 1990: Omega 90 begins to develop the palliative care culture in Luxembourg.
- 1998: The term “palliative” appears for the first time in health policy; the first time in a policy about nursing (*“règlement grand-ducal du 21 janvier 1998 portant sur l’exercice de la profession d’infirmier”*), and several months later in a law about hospitals (*“loi du 28 août 1998 sur les établissements hospitaliers”*).
- 2005: The Ministry of Family agrees to fund the construction of the first hospice in Luxembourg (to be built by Omega 90 within the next two years).

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

Health policy

- Omega 90, the national association of palliative care, is supported by six nationally recognized organisations: Caritas Luxembourg, Red Cross Luxembourg, AMIPERAS (National Association for the Elderly), Luxembourg Cancer Foundation and the two most important home care organisations (Hellef Doheem and Doheem Versuergt). It is financially supported by the Ministry of Family and Social Integration.



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

- Omega 90 did not 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).
- Omega 90 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 Luxembourg that seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide. In 2002, a policy proposition about euthanasia “*dying with dignity*” was introduced to the parliament (Chambre des Députés), but it was not voted upon.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

References

There are no palliative care references for Luxembourg.

Information correct as at: 7th August 2006.

