

SPAIN



Population: 40,341,462

Current Directory:

Printed version * Directorio SECPAL
Online version * www.secpal.com/directorio
None identified

Key Contact/National Association

Key contact:

Luis Alberto Flores Pérez,
Coordinator, Directorio SECPAL,
Sociedad Española de Cuidados Paliativos (SECPAL),
Toreros 19 – 5 A,
SPAIN.

Telephone: 34 696218721

E-Mail: luisafp@secpal.com

National Association:

Xavier Gómez-Batiste, MD, PhD,
President, Sociedad Española de Cuidados Paliativos (SECPAL),
Palliative care Service,
Institut català d'Oncologia,
Avda Granvia s/n,
08917 HOSPITALET BARCELONA,
SPAIN.

Telephone: 00.93.260.77.89

Email: xgomez@ico.scs.es

Palliative Care Services

NK = not known

Number of 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	95	0	27	139	28	289
Paediatric only	2	0	0	0	0	2
				Inpatient Palliative Care Units/ Hospices	Chronic Hospitals /Nursing Homes	Total
Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients				883	215	1098
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				2	0	2

Comments/Sources

- The numbers of services reported are from the Spanish Directory of Services 2004 that uses restrictive criteria to show only specific resources of Palliative Care. There are other sources of information that provide higher data in addition: Health System from Autonomic Regions, Hospitalization at Home Teams, etc.
- There are geographic differences in Spain between Autonomic Regions. We could consider that there are three different levels of development of Palliative Care in Spain: Level high (more that 50% of coverage of Palliative Care): Catalonia, Extremadura, Navarra, Canarias, Rioja; Level medium (between 30-50% of coverage): at least the follow Castilla y León, Cantabria, País Vasco and some others;

<p>Level low (less than 30% of coverage): regions with very slow implementation as for example Galicia and Valencia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering only Cataluña the provision of services could be as follow: 63 Palliative Care Units with 552 beds (22 of them in Hospital for non-Acute Patients); 34 Consultants Teams in Hospitals, 70 Home Care Teams (called PADES, they have structure and Palliative Care process but some of them are working also in the field of Geriatric patients at the Community. They attend 35.000 Palliative Care process, 12.400 cancer patients y 8.700 non-cancer patients. <p>[Directorio SECPAL 2004] [EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005] [Departament de Salut i Departament de Benestar i Família, Catalonia]</p>
--

Adult Palliative Care Population		
95%	Of patients receiving palliative care have a cancer diagnosis	
5%	Of patients receiving palliative care have other incurable conditions	
	Cancer	(n)
Number of patients who die at home with PC teams attending	NK	7200
Number of patients who die in a general hospital with PC teams attending	NK	14900
Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions	NK	NK

Comments/Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of patients with cancer/non-cancer diagnoses receiving palliative care is an estimate only. <p>[Directorio SECPAL 2004] [Instituto Nacional de Estadística www.ine.es/] [EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]</p>

Palliative Care Workforce Capacity			
	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	492	0	492
Nurses	798	0	798
Social Workers	NK	NK	137
Psychologists	NK	NK	118
Physiotherapists	NK	NK	35
Occupational Therapists	NK	NK	2
Spiritual/Faith leaders	NK	NK	40
Volunteers	NK	NK	NK

Comments/Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 111 palliative care units that have some volunteers, although the exact number of volunteers is unknown. Considering Catalonia only: there are 140 physicians full-time working in Palliative Care. <p>[Directorio SECPAL 2004] [EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]</p>

Funding of palliative care services	
Total number of palliative care services funded by the government	135
Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO's	11

Comments/Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 115 palliative care services supported by a combination of private and

<p>public funds.</p> <p>[Directorio SECPAL 2004]</p> <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	Fentanyl	88 €
Second opioid	Morphine	14€
Third opioid	Buprenorfine	88 €
Comments/Sources		
[Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo www.msc.es]		
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]		

Key issues and challenges

- Lack of political commitment of some regional health ministries.
- Lack of appropriate professional leadership in some regions..
- The development of hospice and palliative care occurs at two different speeds, according to political involvement: some regions are implementing it very quickly (for example, Catalonia, Extremadura)

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

Palliative care accreditation

- There is no specialist accreditation for palliative care professionals in Spain at the present time but there is an open process working for an Specific Area of Capacitation in Palliative Care (sub-specialty).

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative care milestones

- 1984-1991: First Palliative Care Services and Units: H. Valdecilla Santander, Hospital Santa Creu, Vic (Barcelona), Hospital El Sabinal (Las Palmas de Gran Canarias), Hospital Gregorio Marañón de Madrid.
- 1990-1995 Catalonia WHO Demostration Project on Palliative Care
- 1991: First Home Care Team of the Spanish Association Against Cancer
- 1992 Spanish Society of Palliative Care was founded.
- 1994: The Spanish Ministry Decree improves the availability of strong opioids.
- 1994: First issue of “Medicina Paliativa” Spanish Journal of Palliative Care
- 1995 First Spanish Congress on Palliative Care and 4th European Congress in Barcelona
- 1997: First Edition of the Spanish Directory of Palliative Care
- 1999: www.secpal.com, a web site for professionals in Spanish is launched
- 2001: National Plan on Palliative Care from Spanish Minister of Health
- 2004: Sociedad Española de Cuidados Paliativos (SECPAL) 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) by translating the document into Spanish and Galician.
- 2005: Palliative care is included in the ‘Plan Nacional de Cáncer’ - the



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

Ministry of Health recommends its implementation and recognises palliative care as a human right to be protected.

- 2006: A new national plan is now under consensus building, and 5 regions are in the process of implementing palliative care plans.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

Health policy

- Several regions (Catalonia, Canarias, Extremadura) have developed excellent programs based on WHO principles, and act as reference centres for others. There are 5 more regions with middle sized implementation, and 5 more building up plans.
- The Catalan model is now being updated to cover non-cancer patients, and to extend general measures in conventional services.
- At the current time, there no initiatives in Spain that seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide. Some political parties do seek such legislation, but the Spanish Minister of Health has said that this will not be considered within the next four years.
- A new National Palliative Care Plan is now being building under consensus
- Five of 14 Autonomic Regions are in the process of implementing new palliative care plan for first time: Galicia, Andalucía, Cantabria, Madrid, Asturias.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

References

Benitez, M. A., Castaneda, P., Gimeno, V., Gomez, M., Duque, A., Pascual, L., Perez, N., Sanchez, M., and Torrubia, P. 2001. [Consensus document of the Spanish Society of Palliative Care (SECPAL) and the Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC). Domiciliary care for the patient with cancer in terminal phase]. *Aten Primaria.*, vol. 27(2): 123-6.

Bosch, X. 2000. Spain launches national plan for palliative care. *BMJ.*, vol. 320(7243): 1162

Bosch, X. 2001. Spain agrees palliative care plan. *BMJ.*, vol. 322(7277): 8.

Centeno, C., and Heller, K. S. 2000. Palliative care in Spain: an evolving model. *J. Palliat. Med.*, vol. 3(1): 123-7.

Centeno, C., Hernansanz, S., Flores, L. A., Rubiales, A. S., and Lopez-Lara, F. 2002. Spain: palliative care programs in Spain, 2000: a national survey. *J. Pain Symptom Manage.*, vol. 24(2): 245-51.

Centeno C, Hernansanz S, Flores LA, Rubiales AS, Lopez-Lara F. Spain: palliative care programs in Spain, 2000: a national survey. *J Pain Symptom Manage.* 2002 Aug;24(2):245-51

Flores, L. A., Centeno, C., Sanz, A., and Hernansanz, S. 2005. *Directorio de Cuidados Paliativos 2004 España*. Sociedad Española de Cuidados Paliativos. Madrid.

Gomez-Batiste X, Fontanals MD, Roca J, Borrás JM, Viladiu P, Stjernsward J, Rius E. Catalonia WHO Demonstration Project on Palliative Care Implementation 1990-1995: results in 1995. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 1996 Aug;12(2):73-8.

Gomez-Batiste, X., Madrid, F., Moreno, F., Gracia, A., Trelis, J., Nabal, M., Alcalde, R., Planas, J., and Camell, H. 2002. Breakthrough cancer pain: prevalence and characteristics in patients in Catalonia, Spain. *J. Pain Symptom Manage.*, vol. 24(1): 45-52.

Gomez-Batiste, X., Porta, J., Tuca, A., Corrales, E., Madrid, F., Trelis, J., Fontanals, D., Borrás, J. M., Stjernsward, J., Salva, A., and Rius, E. 2002. Spain: the WHO Demonstration Project of Palliative Care Implementation in Catalonia: results at 10 Years (1991-2001). *J. Pain Symptom Manage.*, vol. 24(2): 239-44.

Gomez-Batiste X, Tuca A, Corrales E, Porta-Sales J, Amor M, Espinosa J, Borrás JM, de la Mata I, Castellsague X; Grupo de Evaluación-SECPAL. Resource consumption and costs of palliative care services in Spain: a multicenter prospective study. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2006 Jun;31(6):522-32.

Gracia, D., and Nunez Olarte, J. M. 2000. Report from Spain. *Support. Care Cancer*, vol. 8(3): 169-74.

Centeno C, Flores LA, Hernansanz S. Historia De Los Cuidados Paliativos. El Desarrollo En España. En: Marcos Gómez et al, Avance en cuidados paliativos. Tomo III, 687-704

Comento: Faltan mil datos

Jaspers, B., and Schindler, T. 2004. *Stand der palliativmedizin und hospizarbeit in Deutschland und im vergleich zu ausgewählten staaten*. Enquete-Kommission des Bundestages. Ethik und Recht der modernen Medizin. Section 8.11, Spanien.

Núñez Olarte, J. M., and Guillen, D. G. 2001. Cultural issues and ethical dilemmas in palliative and end-of-life care in Spain. *Cancer Control*, vol. 8(1): 46-54.

Núñez Olarte, J. M. N., and Gracia, D. 2001. Palliative care in Spain. In: H. ten Have and R. Janssens (Eds) *Palliative Care in Europe: Concepts and Policies*. Amsterdam: IOS Press, 2001, pp. 55-68.

Serra-Prat, M., Gallo, P., and Picaza, J. M. 2001. Home palliative care as a cost-saving alternative: evidence from Catalonia. *Palliat. Med.*, vol. 15(4): 271-8.

Zabalegui, A. 2001. Palliative nursing care in Spain. *Eur. J. Cancer Care*, vol. 10(4): 280-3.

Information correct as at: 7th August 2006.



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

