

EXTENSION OF THE SUPPORT OF THE PALLIATIVE HOME CARE FOR INCURABLE ILL CHILDREN, FROM A NETWORK FOR PALLIATIVE CARE.

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Introduction: The project “Children and palliative care” is a cooperation between the network “Palliatieve Hulpverlening Antwerpen (PHA)” and 2 child centre: the public “Koningin Paola” child hospital and the University Hospital of Antwerp. This project, originated in the committee “children” of PHA, is part of the network function and exceeds institutional problems. It has several aims: sensitisation, cooperation, service, education, voluntary work, home care expertise. Aims/objectives: The project does everything to make homecare possible for all terminally ill children in the Antwerp region. It gives children and their entire family the chance to part intimately and calmly at home. The emancipatory plan of PHA is in this teamwork essential. The project offers day and night support of the child and advice for the family and all those concerned. The project starts with the discharge from the hospital and ends with the bereavement support of the parents and siblings. Method: The cooperation between the different participants is represented in a diagram. Each participant has his specific place. The structure guarantees a cooperation in which a children’s size high-quality care remains fundamental. The primary health care receives all the attention. The cooperation is phased and analysed by a retrospective analyse. Results: The first results dated from the period 1998-2001. Further and recent results will be available by april 2002. Discussion: In the first stage all professionals play their specific role. The GP as primary responsible, PHA as coordinator, the hospital nurse as intermediary and the specialist as backup. In a second stage, the cooperation extends to all the persons involved in the care, such as family, friends, school, etc. . The support and role of a network for palliative care is a great asset to have an excellent care for incurable children, their family and all the caregivers involved.