

RESEARCH IN PALLIATIVE CARE FOR NON-CANCER PATIENTS: WHAT ARE THE NEEDS?

Professor Julia Addington-Hall, Department of Palliative Care and Policy, King's College London, UK

It is argued increasingly in the UK and elsewhere that palliative care should be provided on the basis of need, not diagnosis. This has arisen in part because of evidence from epidemiological studies of population-based samples of bereaved relatives of unmet need for improved symptom control, psychological support and open communication amongst people dying from causes other than cancer. In this presentation I will review this review, focusing specifically on the needs of people who die from chronic heart failure. I will explore whether the earlier indications of unmet need have been substantiated by more recent research, drawing particularly on the findings of our cohort study of 200 patients with severe chronic heart failure. The implications of these results for palliative care provision will be discussed, and a research agenda suggested.