

Access to palliative care in UK and elsewhere

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United Kingdom:

- **Each day, over 320 patients fail to get the specialist palliative care they need¹**
- **Referrals to hospice are often very late in the illness²**
- **Current UK policies lack clear priorities on how to improve palliative or end of life care³**



Internationally: In 23 countries, palliative care involvement was less than 19 days for cancer, and 6 days for non-cancer.⁴

This means most patients are failing to experience the benefit of early intervention with expert palliative care.

Oregon: In 2020, one third described inadequate pain control or fear of pain as a reason for requesting an assisted death.⁵

Only 13% of those who underwent an assisted death were referred for specialist palliative care input⁶

Canada: In one study, less than half of assisted death patients had seen a specialist palliative care team.⁷

Only 15% of Canadians have access to publicly funded palliative care⁸

Australia: 59% of dying hospital patients are not referred for specialist palliative care⁹

References

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