

Access to palliative care in UK and elsewhere

v8



Every individual has the right to receive specialist palliative care



Unfortunately, many do not have access to the care they need

United Kingdom:

- Each day, over **320** patients fail to get the specialist palliative care they need<sup>1</sup>
- Referrals to hospice are often very late in the illness<sup>2</sup>
- Current UK policies have lacked clear priorities on how to improve palliative or end of life care <sup>3</sup>



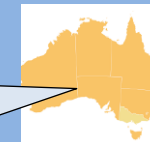
**Internationally:** In 23 countries, palliative care involvement was less than 19 days for cancer, and 6 days for non-cancer.<sup>4</sup> This means most patients are failing to experience the benefit of early intervention with expert palliative care.

**Oregon:** In 2020, one third described inadequate pain control or fear of pain as a reason for requesting an assisted death.<sup>5</sup> Only 13% of those who underwent an assisted death were referred for specialist palliative care input<sup>6</sup>



**Canada:** Almost half of Canadians who died received no palliative care, an increase of only 6% in 5 years.<sup>7</sup> Less than half of assisted death patients had seen a specialist palliative care team.<sup>8</sup>

**Australia:** 59% of dying hospital patients are not referred for specialist palliative care<sup>9</sup> Doctors in Victoria are struggling to find time to get to know patients<sup>10</sup>



References

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