



# DESIGN & DIGNITY

## Guidelines for Palliative care suites



**Excerpt from the Design & Dignity Stylebook  
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# Palliative care suites

Palliative Care suites provide a more home-like setting for patients and their families. They allow increased privacy for patients and their families shielding them from the busyness of the acute ward. They can allow the provision of complementary and alternative therapies to help alleviate symptoms and promote relaxation. Private and dignified space also allows more attention to the psychological and spiritual needs of the patient and family.

## Requirements for palliative care suite:

- The suite should preferably have a sunny, southerly aspect in a private area of the ward
- Min required area 25sqm (Design Guidelines for Specialist Palliative Care Settings, Department of Health, 2004 )
- Sufficient storage space for patients' belongings including a safe
- Kitchenette/tea station with fridge for visitors
- Overnight facilities for family members
- Access to an external space
- En-suite shower room
- Sufficient door width for the person's bed to be wheeled through
- Desk, shelving for personal belongings including photographs and flowers
- Seating and lying area for visitors (day bed)
- Music therapy to help patients and families relax and relieve stress.
- TV with facility to show family photographs could be considered
- Views and ideally access to gardens/landscaped area
- Carefully chosen artwork
- Rooms should be decorated in different colours to aid orientation



Image of planned room for St Brigid's Hospice, Kildare



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