The Hospice Friendly Hospitals Programme is an initiative of the Irish Hospice Foundation. It seeks to ensure that end of life, palliative and bereavement care are central to the everyday business of hospitals.

The joint HSE HFH oversight group (established in 2017) seeks to ensure that the HFH programme is strategically linked to relevant HSE activities. Details of the HFH hub are overleaf.

43% OF PEOPLE IN IRELAND DIE IN HOSPITAL. THAT’S OVER 12,000 PEOPLE EVERY YEAR.

The HFH Programme began in 2007 to improve the standard of end-of-life care in hospitals.

45 public and private hospitals are now linked to the programme. This includes general, maternity and children’s hospitals.

Eight End-of-Life Care Coordinators are now in post in hospitals/across hospital groups. (Dec. 2017)
**Principles of the Hospice Friendly Hospitals Programme**

- We promote a 360° approach to palliative, end of life and bereavement care in hospitals whether the persons death is sudden or expected.
- Our approach is underpinned by the *Quality Standards for End-of-Life Care in Hospitals* which includes the perspective of patients, families & hospital staff.

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**The HFH Hub**

Coordinates and hosts **three national networks** open to all hospital staff to promote improvements in end-of-life care.
- The Acute Hospital Network
- Children and Maternity Network
- The End-of-Life Care Coordinator Network

Develops and promotes ceremonial **resources** such as the end of life symbol, family handover bags, drapes and ward altars.

Develops and promotes **education** supports for all hospital staff
- Final Journeys and Dealing with Bad News training programmes
- ‘Just in time’ education tools
- Animations and video clips
- Individual education and professional development grants

Operates the **Design & Dignity Programme**, in partnership with the HSE, which aims to transform the way hospital spaces are designed for people at the end of life.

**Advocates** for investment in specialist palliative care, end of life care and bereavement services at hospital, hospital group and national level.

Provides expert **advice and guidance** directly to hospital staff to support them implement the HFH Programme in their hospital.

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**Keep in touch**

For regular news and programme updates contact us to join our mailing list.
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