

Newsletter of the Irish Hospice Foundation Primary Palliative Care Steering Committee

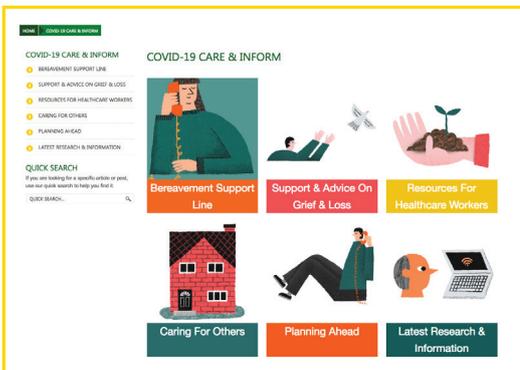
August 2020

In Ireland...

... 23% of deaths take place at home and 17% of deaths take place in nursing homes. The Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) Primary Palliative Care (PPC) programme addresses the provision of palliative care in these settings. This newsletter provides an update on work to date nationally and internationally in this area.

Save The Date!

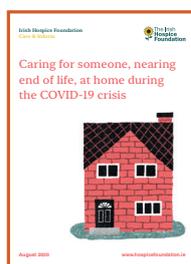
On Wednesday 16th September an evening webinar addressing palliative care for GPs will take place. Planned to take place during Palliative Care Week and as part of the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) webinar series, with support from IHF, the webinar will be CPD accredited from ICGP. For more information, contact: Erika.ring@hospicefoundation.ie or Jana.pickard@icgp.ie



The screenshot shows a website interface for 'COVID-19 CARE & INFORM'. It features a navigation menu on the left with items like 'Bereavement Support Line', 'Support & Advice on Grief & Loss', 'Resources for Healthcare Workers', 'Caring for Others', 'Planning Ahead', and 'Latest Research & Information'. The main content area displays several icons and text boxes corresponding to these categories, such as a house for 'Caring for Others' and a person on a phone for 'Bereavement Support Line'.



**Irish Hospice Foundation
Bereavement
Support Line
1800 807077**
Monday to Friday 10am-1pm



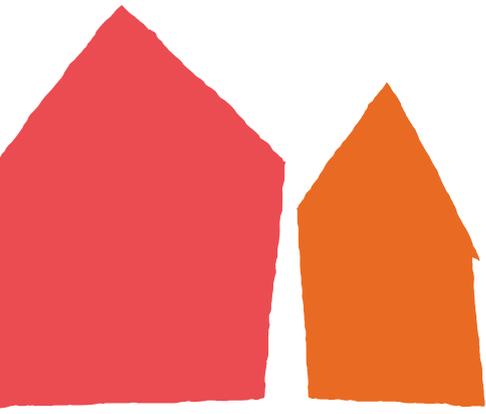
Caring for someone, nearing end of life, at home during the COVID-19 crisis
August 2020
www.hospicefoundation.ie

Primary Palliative Care & COVID-19:

- IHF has developed the COVID-19 Care & Inform online hub to provide reliable and up-to-date information and advice on end-of-life and bereavement care. A range of leaflets and videos on topics including delivering bad news, advance care planning, and information on grief, loss and bereavement are available. The resources are suitable for all staff in all settings. There is also information available for people receiving palliative and/or end-of-life care and their families. Click [here](#) to be brought to the online hub.
- The new booklet Caring for someone, nearing end of life, at home during the COVID-19 Crisis was developed by IHF. This resource is available on the IHF Care & Inform hub.
- Dr Paul Gregan, Chair of the IHF PPC Steering Committee delivered a presentation about primary palliative care at the ICGP annual conference and AGM in May.
- IHF with the HSE launched a new Bereavement Support line in June. This new freephone line aims to support those affected by bereavement during the COVID-19 pandemic. IHF with HSE staff/volunteers staff the phone line that operates Monday- Friday from 10.00-13.00: **1800 80 70 77**
- The European Association of Palliative Care Primary Care Reference Group blog urging the scaling up of palliative care provision within primary care is available [here](#).

Irish Hospice Foundation and the Irish College of General Practitioners:

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IHF and ICGP earlier this year. A range of joint projects to include more webinars are currently being planned.
- The ICGP will deliver a second certificate course in palliative care and are now accepting expressions of interest. Because of the necessary restrictions during the COVID-19 Pandemic this course may be entirely delivered by virtual workshops with the hope of having face to face workshops in 2021. For information please contact: Jana.pickard@icgp.ie



Community Nurses:

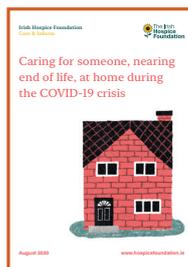
- An article about the role of Practice Nurses in palliative care was published in the February Edition of Nursing in General Practice.
- This year there has been a 5% increase in demand for the Nurses for Night Care Service. Information about this service is available [here](#).
- The IHF PPC Steering Committee is seeking representatives from community based nurses with an interest in palliative care. Please contact Deirdre.Shanagher@hospicefoundation.ie if you are interested.

Advocacy:

- The IHF PPC Steering Committee continues to advocate for the inclusion of palliative care and advance care planning within the new GP contract. We are in ongoing communication with the Sláintecare office in the Department of Health on this issue.
- Members of IHF presented to the Nursing Home COVID-19 Expert Panel in June. A report from this Panel is expected by the end of August.
- IHF has called for a process for remembrance and reflection in post-COVID-19 Ireland. More information is available [here](#).

Useful resources:

- Caring for someone nearing the end of life at home during the COVID-19 crisis is an online booklet that contains practical information about what to expect if you are caring for a person who is dying at home.
- Caring for someone at the end of life at home: some practical information is an online leaflet that aims to help people know what to expect and how to support a person who is dying.
- The GP Out Of Hours Palliative Care Handover Form is aimed at enhancing communication between the GP and Out of Hours services.
- IHF's Think Ahead form is a document that people can fill in. It helps people to plan for their life and end of life. It includes an Advance Healthcare Directive.



All resources are available on the IHF website: www.hospicefoundation.ie



For more information and to join the Irish Hospice Foundation Primary Palliative Care Contact List email:

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