



Primary Palliative Care Steering Committee Newsletter | December 2021

Providing updates on palliative care in the community setting

Did you know that nearly half (46%) of deaths each year in Ireland take place in the community, with 23% of people dying at home, and 23% in nursing homes and community hospitals? GPs and Primary Care Teams are essential to the delivery of palliative and end-of-life care in these settings, providing an estimated 90% of care in the last year of a person's life.

Irish Hospice Foundation's (IHF) Primary Palliative Care (PPC) Programme is focussed on supporting the provision of palliative and end-of-life care to people with advancing life-limiting conditions, of all types, within the community.

Irish Hospice Foundation and the Irish College of General Practitioners

The third delivery of ICGP's Certificate Course in Palliative Care commenced online in September, following two very positively received course-runs during 2020/21. Supported by ICGP, IHF and the HSE, expressions of interest for the next intake are currently being accepted. For information, please contact: education@icgp.ie.

In September, PPC committee member, Dr Brendan O'Shea, presented on "Further improving difficult conversations – yes, I believe you may be dying", as part of ICGP's Wednesday Night Webinar series, emphasising the role of the GP in supporting end-of-life care planning. A dedicated webpage for General Practice Think Ahead Form purchases was created as a result and can be found [here](#). A new version of Think Ahead is due to be launched in 2022.



PPC Steering Committee

An article about the role of the GP in end-of-life planning, written by Dr Paul Gregan, Chair of the PPC Steering Committee, was published in the July/August 2021 edition of ICGP's Forum Journal.



Dr Paul Gregan presented his "Learnings from the pandemic" at Forum 2021, IHF's 7th biennial national conference on Dying, Death and Bereavement. Recordings of Dr Gregan's, and all other conference presentations, are available for purchase [here](#).

Palliative Care Week 2021

The role of Practice Nurses in palliative and end-of-life care was highlighted during IHF's first Practice Nurse Webinar, which took place on Tuesday 14th September, as part of Palliative Care Week 2021. Focussing on Think Ahead and Grief & Loss, it was attended by 54 practice nurses who provided some interesting discussion and ideas for future webinars. To watch a recording of the webinar click [here](#).

IHF, Skillnet, and Nursing Homes Ireland's Webinar "Supporting Staff Health and Wellbeing" took place on Wednesday 15th September and was very well received with nearly 250 registered to attend.

Community Nurses

Following the successful Practice Nurse Webinar during Palliative Care Week, IHF plan future webinars for 2022. If you have any particular suggestions/requests for topics please contact marese.damery@hospicefoundation.ie

Demand for IHF's Nurses for Night Care service (delivered by our partners Irish Cancer Society) has significantly increased during the COVID-19 period. Information about this service, including details on the **urgent recruitment drive for Night Nurses**, is available [here](#).

The PPC Steering Committee is seeking representation from community-based nurses, with an interest in palliative care. If you are interested please contact marese.damery@hospicefoundation.ie.

Advocacy

The PPC Steering Committee continues to advocate for the inclusion of palliative care and advance care planning within the GP contract and remains in communication with the Sláintecare office in the Department of Health on this issue.

Members of the PPC Steering Committee were recently involved in focus groups around HIQA's upcoming National Standards on Home Support Services, highlighting the importance of generalist palliative and end-of-life care training and the value of home support services to those with palliative and end-of-life care needs in the community.



Other News:

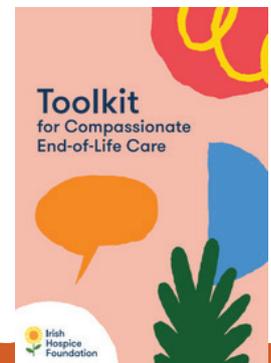
The European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) Primary Care Reference Group was established in 2016. Information about this Group's work and access to several useful resources on Primary Palliative Care, including a toolkit for the development of palliative care in the community in several languages, are available [here](#).



Primary Palliative Care & COVID-19

IHF's COVID-19 Care & Inform Hub continues to provide reliable and up-to-date information and advice on end-of-life and bereavement care.

[CLICK HERE FOR FURTHER DETAILS](#)



A number of IHF resources are now available in hard-copy format. If you require copies of these or others, please contact info@hospicefoundation.ie

Further resources for those working in Primary Palliative Care:

Available from hospicefoundation.ie

- The GP Out-of-Hours Palliative Care Handover Form
- Useful Resources for Primary Palliative Care
- Palliative Care: What is it & Who is it for?



To die and grieve well wherever the place

For more info/to join our mailing list:

marese.damery@hospicefoundation.ie

Registered Charity 20013554

