



This is the first of a series of communiqués to keep you updated with developments related to palliative care for people with non-malignant diseases. This edition summarises the commitments made at the Palliative Care Implementation Workshop which was held on 27 March 2009 in Dublin, and provides an update on developments related to recommendations of the 'Palliative Care for All' report.

OUTCOMES FROM IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP 27.3.09

Support and Monitoring

- A National Steering Committee will be set up to oversee developments in this area - first meeting to be convened by mid-2009.
- Mechanisms are to be established to harmonise the work of the three action/exploratory research projects planned.

Education

A submission is to be prepared and sent to HSE Education, Training and Research (ETR) Committee, setting out education policy requirements relating to palliative care and non-malignant disease.

Communication and Dissemination

The following mechanisms were identified to provide a communication network and ongoing resources to staff working in this area:

- ✓ Quarterly e-communiqué
- ✓ Dedicated website to act as information and resource portal, which will initially be hosted on the IHF website www.hospice-foundation.ie
- ✓ Seminar to be hosted on this topic, with international speakers, in late 2009

Other Diseases

- Carry out collaborative research with renal and palliative teams, with a focus on key factors assisting decision-making re offering and accepting dialysis.
- Prepare poster outlining potential role of palliative care for patients with advanced kidney disease.
- Establish formal links with clinicians and professional groups representing people with neurological diseases.

PROGRESS ON REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Action / Exploratory Research Projects

- Proposals have been prepared for three action/exploratory research projects in the areas of heart failure, dementia and advanced respiratory disease. These projects, which will have a service enhancement dimension, will be of two year duration. It is anticipated all will commence in 2009.
- The goal of the three action/exploratory research projects is to devise, implement and evaluate appropriate palliative care responses within dementia, heart failure and respiratory disease management frameworks.

Dissemination

- The findings of the Report are being presented to the disease management teams and other interested groups.
- Summary information booklet of the Report will be distributed in early summer
- Poster and oral presentations on this topic are being delivered at national and international conferences

Other Diseases

Links have been made with representative groups and interested professionals to examine how the role of palliative care for people with Cystic Fibrosis and Scleroderma can be progressed within the existing care pathway for these diseases.

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

If you would like to assist with the Education submission, participate on the National Steering Committee, contribute to the national seminar planned for later this year or hear more about the Action Research Projects, contact Marie Lynch at marie.lynch@hospice-foundation.ie.

If you would like to receive a presentation on the findings of the report, contact Angela Edghill at angela.edghill@hospice-foundation.ie.

Copies of the 'Palliative Care for All' report are available from www.hospice-foundation.ie or www.hse.ie.

