

MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF UKRAINE
INSTITUTE OF PALLIATIVE AND HOSPICE MEDICINE МИНЗДРАВА УКРАИНЫ
ALL-UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF PALLIATIVE CARE
ALL-UKRAINIAN COUNCIL FOR PATIENT RIGHTS AND SAFETY

DEVELOPMENT OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN UKRAINE IN 2008

Accordingly to WHO definition (2002), palliative care is an approach, which helps to improve the life quality of those who faces incurable disease and their family members.

During the year the information on hospice care movement in Ukraine continued to be analyzed. Key stakeholders on palliative care were identified.

The analysis of legislation concerning end-of-life care was continued. The special attention was paid to usage of opioids (pain management). The recommendations about its improvement were developed.

The coordination council (steering committee) on palliative care was created by Ministry of Health of Ukraine. The council objectives: development of palliative and hospice care system in Ukraine, development of a relevant governmental program, coordination of palliative care providers in Ukraine, legislation improvement, training of staff, a hospice network development and awareness raising of society on mentioned questions. The council unites key stakeholders – representatives of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family, Ministry of Labor and social policy, of patient organizations, voluntary organizations, Churches. Co-heads of the council – Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Zynovy Mytnyk and prof. MD I. Gubsky.

The coordination council on palliative and hospice care with support of Association of palliative care and International Renaissance Foundation in April – October 2008 the Palliative care development (in 2010-2014) Concept was developed. Also the event plan with approximate budget was elaborated. The documents were approved by Ministry of Health, supported in general by Academy of medical sciences, by different ministries, and returned to Ministry of Health for further improvement. In July 2008 the governmental institution for palliative care development within the structure of Ministry of health was created. It was Institute for palliative and hospice medicine. This is a basic scientific and clinical facility of Ministry of Health on palliative and hospice care issues. Prof. MD Iury Gubsky was appointed as Director of the Institute. Institute has such aims at its activities: to coordinate the preparation of the governmental program of palliative care development in Ukraine, to improve relevant legislation, prepare the staff, develop and control relevant protocols and guidelines.

Raise awareness campaign on palliative care started. The cooperation with local, national and international mass-media started. In 2007 and 2008 in cooperation with Ministry of health, Ministry of labor and social policy the campaign was done. 10 regional branches of Association of palliative care participated. Concerts, round tables, conferences and other mass events were organized.

In cooperation with faculty of state scientific geriatric center and Institute of palliative medicine (at Hospice of San-Diego, USA) the educational program for medical workers was elaborated. This program is the first educational curricula in Ukraine which can be used to train specialists in palliative care. 3-20 November 2008 the workshop was organized accordingly to the program, with support of International Renaissance Foundation and Open Society Institute. 32 future trainers on palliative care obtained certificates out of Deputy Minister hands.

4 regional task forces (coordination councils, steering committees) on palliative care were established. The final goal of them: to create relevant local programs and palliative care development on the regional (local) level.

The number of in-patient hospice beds in Ukraine increased on 80 beds. The work on hospice establishing in 8 regions

started.

One of the most important components in palliative care advocacy is cooperation with mass-media. In last year, about 40 publications on palliative care issued. Also, in September the national campaign "To dye with dignity" started. It was in cooperation with different national newspapers.

International experience of palliative care providing was studied. International approaches were laid down as a basis for technical and economical calculations of governmental palliative care program. In study visits about 20 medical workers and public health decision-makers participated.

Thanks to this activities the number of palliative care facilities increases. In 2002, there were 400 in-patient beds in 12 palliative care facilities; in 2007 – 550 beds in 18 facilities; and in 2008 – 600 beds in 19 facilities.

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