

# End of life care as a clinical priority

The Marie Curie and Royal College  
of General Practitioners Partnership



Layton Thompson/Marie Curie

The Marie Curie and Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Partnership champions patient-centred, high quality care for people nearing the end of their lives. Our aim is to raise the profile of palliative and end of life care, by galvanising the support of professionals, stakeholders and policy-makers around this vitally important clinical priority.

We know our colleagues in general practice are committed to providing the best care for their patients. That's why our programme has a strong focus on workforce development, advance care planning, best-practice commissioning, and education and training. The programme is designed to meet the increasing challenges GPs face and pioneer good practice for the future.

## We aim to:

- raise awareness of the success factors and challenges in delivering palliative and end of life care in general practice
- support GPs in improving end of life care provision for people nearing the end of their lives
- reduce inequalities in the provision of end of life care
- advocate end of life care approaches informed by patient preferences and choices
- improve confidence, knowledge and skill base among GPs through educational and promotional activities
- ensure that end of life care remains a high priority for the RCGP, consolidating the work already undertaken and building for the future

Our **position statement** gives a high-level overview of the growing demand for palliative and end of life care and our commitment to an integrated approach to care and support. Take a look at our online resources, see overleaf for details.

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**Come and visit us at the  
RCGP annual conference,  
stand 55P**

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Working in partnership



Royal College of  
General Practitioners



Care and support  
through terminal illness

## Programme update for 2014/15

### RCGP end of life care survey

Our survey explored the experiences of general practice professionals in delivering end of life care.

- 654 professionals responded to the survey.
- Core areas explored included educational needs; delivering care; communication; and 24/7 access.
- 97% of respondents agreed that general practice plays a key role in delivering end of life care to patients and families.

The survey highlights the continued dedication of general practitioners in supporting people and their families in the last years of life. It describes many of the fundamental challenges and success factors that impact GPs' ability to provide this care. We hope to publish the formal anonymised analysis later this year. Look out for news from the RCGP.

### Masterclass in end of life care

We delivered five one-day end of life Masterclass events around the UK, providing 150 professionals with key updates on delivering the best care to patients and their families at the end of life. Topics included prescribing at the end of life; palliative care emergencies; pain and symptom control; advance care planning; fluids and nutrition at the end of life and GMC guidance; recognising a patient is entering the last stage of life; and anticipatory care planning.

### Here are some comments from participants:

- "I found the video clips very powerful."
- "Thought provoking cases."
- "Great day. Good mix of cases and group discussion."
- "I feel more confident in my management of these patients and also more knowledgeable."
- "Confidence in palliative care prescribing, communication, legal aspects and capacity."
- "Excellent team. Good format with interactive cases."
- "Some good revision. Some new ideas. Resolve to improve care."
- "Confidence to get on and form plans with patients."

The Marie Curie and RCGP Partnership is helping GPs to provide high-quality palliative and end of life care for their patients by promoting clinical and commissioning best practice.



### More Masterclass events planned for 2016

We are holding more Masterclass events in early 2016, which will include tips on how to achieve an 'outstanding' rating for end of life care from the Care Quality Commission. For dates and venues, please email [verity.sharp@rcgp.org.uk](mailto:verity.sharp@rcgp.org.uk)

### Toolkit for palliative and end of life care

We are developing a toolkit for GPs to support professional development and highlight key resources available. We launch later in the year so watch out for news from RCGP.

### GP end of life care forum

We greatly value general practice support in responding to political debate and developing tools and training to improve end of life care. We have set up a GP EOLC forum to explore:

1. Strategy and research: peer review of documents and advice on topics.
2. Education and training, and patient and public involvement: comment on curriculum and toolkit, tools and advice, putting new things into practice
3. Commissioning EOLC

To find out more about the forum, contact [amina.abdulmajeed@rcgp.org.uk](mailto:amina.abdulmajeed@rcgp.org.uk).

**Find resources and information by searching online for 'RCGP end of life' or visit [mariecurie.org.uk/rcgp](http://mariecurie.org.uk/rcgp)**

### Who we are

Marie Curie partnership stakeholder and Chair:  
*Professor Bill Noble*

Clinical Champion:  
*Dr Catherine Millington-Sanders*

Clinical Support Fellows:  
*Dr Michael Brookes and Dr Sarah Mitchell*

RCGP CIRC Programme Manager:  
*Matt Legg*

We're here for people living with any terminal illness, and their families. We offer expert care, guidance and support to help them get the most from the time they have left.

