

Supporting dying people and the people close to them



A short guide for parliamentarians



About Marie Curie

We're here for anyone with an illness they're likely to die from, and their family and friends. We bring 75 years of experience and leading research to the care we give at home, in our hospices and over the phone. And we push for a better end of life for all by campaigning and sharing research to change the system.

What is palliative and end of life care?

Palliative care offers physical, emotional and practical support to people with a terminal illness. It can be offered at any point after a terminal diagnosis. Having palliative care doesn't necessarily mean that somebody is likely to die soon – some people have palliative care for years.

End of life care offers treatment and support for people who are near the end of their life. It usually starts to be offered to those who are thought to be in the last year of their life.

Growing demand

As our population ages more people will be living with, and dying from, multiple and complex conditions. Between 2023 and 2048 the number of people with palliative care needs in the UK is projected to increase by more than 147,000 (a 25% increase).

Unmet need

Marie Curie's best estimates suggest that around 1 in 4 people currently do not get the end of life care and support they need. This is due to both a postcode lottery for accessing services and inequalities in access to these services for some marginalised communities.

Ensuring your constituents get the care they need

People with a terminal illness who need palliative and end of life care should first discuss this with their district nurse, GP, or hospital team. These professionals will be able to direct patients to the most appropriate services available in their local area. They can also contact Marie Curie's Support Line (see details on the back of this resource).

Accessing benefits and entitlements

Over 90,000 people die in poverty every year in the UK. From lost income to rising expenses, many people at the end of life struggle to make ends meet. It's therefore vital that people with a terminal illness are able to get financial support quickly and easily, enabling them to spend the last months of life focusing on what really matters.

For more information on access to benefits for people with a terminal illness and their loved ones, visit:

mariecurie.org.uk/benefits

Help for carers and with bereavement

Everyone affected by death and dying – including the family, friends and carers of the dying person – should be supported through and beyond the end of life. The work carried out by carers of people at the end of life often has a significant impact on their own mental and physical health, as well as on their ability to remain in employment, yet can be invisible to others outside their home.

Carers can access information and support via Marie Curie's free Support Line (see details on the back of this resource). Your constituents can ask via Support Line about Marie Curie's Bereavement Support Service, to find out more about being matched with a specially trained telephone volunteer who'll give them regular bereavement support.

Work with Marie Curie in parliament

A key part of Marie Curie's strategy is to raise awareness of the issues faced by dying people and the people close to them. We work with elected decision-makers at all levels to improve policies for the benefit of everyone impacted by dying, death and bereavement.

We provide parliamentarians with localised data, expert briefing and groundbreaking research. To discuss how we can support your work as a parliamentarian, please contact us.

parliament@mariecurie.org.uk

Whatever the question, we're here to help

If one of your constituents is living with a terminal illness or reaching the end of life, our trained team, including information and support officers, nurses, bereavement support specialists, energy support officers and trained volunteers, can give practical information and emotional support.

Covering all terminal illnesses, we can help with information on everything needed, from symptom management and day-to-day care, to financial information and bereavement support.



Call our free Support Line
0800 090 2309*



Chat to us online
mariecurie.org.uk/support



Find information
mariecurie.org.uk/support



Order and download free information booklets
mariecurie.org.uk/publications



Connect with others
community.mariecurie.org.uk



Speak to an Energy Support Officer
0800 090 2309* (and ask about energy support)

*Your calls may be recorded for training and monitoring purposes.