



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
OF LINGUISTS

Palliative care

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS BUNDLE

Palliative care

This glossary is designed to aid in the understanding of concepts, issues and information relating to palliative care.

Term	Description	Translation
Advance care planning:	The process of discussing the type of treatment and care that a patient would or would not wish to receive in the event that they lose the capacity to decide or are unable to express a preference, for example, their preferred place of care and who they would want to be involved in making decisions on their behalf. It seeks to create a record of a patient's wishes and values, preferences and decisions, to ensure that care is planned and delivered in a way that meets their needs and involves and meets the needs of those close to the patient.	
Advance decision or advance directive:	A statement of a patient's wish to refuse a particular type of medical treatment or care if they become unable to make or communicate decisions for themselves. They are called advance decisions in England and Wales, and advance directives in Scotland. If an advance refusal is valid and applicable to the person's current circumstances, it must be respected. It will be legally binding on those providing care in England and Wales (provided that if it relates to life-prolonging treatment it satisfies the additional legal criteria), and it is likely to be legally binding in Scotland and Northern Ireland.	
Advance statement:	A statement of a patient's views about how they would or would not wish to be treated if they become unable to make or communicate decisions for themselves. This can be a general statement about, for example, wishes regarding place of residence, religious and cultural beliefs, and other personal values and preferences, as well as about medical treatment and care.	
Bereavement:	The act of grieving someone's death. Bereavement is the total response to a death and includes the process of recovery or healing from the death. Although there are similarities in the ways people respond to grief, there are	

	also marked differences. Each person will grieve and recover in their own way and time.	
Capacity:	The ability to make a decision. An adult is deemed to have capacity unless, having been given all appropriate help and support, it is clear that they cannot understand, retain, use or weigh up the information needed to make a particular decision or to communicate their wishes.	
Clinically assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH):	Clinically assisted nutrition includes nasogastric feeding and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) or radiologically inserted gastrostomy (RIG) feeding tubes through the abdominal wall. PEG, RIG and nasogastric tube feeding also provide the fluids necessary to keep patients hydrated. Clinically assisted hydration includes intravenous or subcutaneous infusion of fluids (use of a 'drip'), and nasogastric tube feeding or administration of fluid. The term 'clinically assisted nutrition and hydration' does not refer to help given to patients to eat or drink, for example spoon-feeding.	
Clinician:	A health professional, such as a doctor or nurse, involved in clinical practice.	
Caregiver:	Any person who provides care for the physical and emotional needs of a family member or friend.	
Cancer:	Abnormal growth of cells which tend to proliferate in an uncontrolled way and in some cases to metastasize.	
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation: (CPR)	The emergency substitution of heart and lung action to restore life to someone who appears dead. The two main components of conventional cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) are chest compression to make the heart pump and mouth-to-mouth ventilation to breathe for the victim.	
Complementary medicine:	Approaches to medical treatment that are outside of mainstream medical training. Complementary medicine treatments used for pain include: acupuncture, low-level laser therapy, meditation, aromatherapy, dance therapy, music therapy, massage, therapeutic touch, yoga, osteopathy, chiropractic	

	treatments, naturopathy and homoeopathy.	
Dementia:	The significant loss of intellectual abilities such as memory capacity severe enough to interfere with social or occupational functioning.	
Delirium:	Delirium is a serious disturbance in a person's mental abilities that results in a decreased awareness of one's environment and confused thinking. The onset of delirium is usually sudden, often within hours or a few days. Delirium can usually be traced to one or more contributing factors, such as a severe or chronic medical illness, medication, surgery, or drug or alcohol abuse. The symptoms of delirium and dementia are similar and input from a family member or caregiver may be important for a doctor to make a diagnosis.	
Durable Power of Attorney:	This is a type of advance medical directive in which legal documents provide the power of attorney to another person in the case of an incapacitating medical condition.	
Do-Not-Resuscitate Order: (DNR)	A DNR order is a physician's written order instructing healthcare providers not to attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in case of cardiac or respiratory arrest. A person with a valid DNR order will not be given CPR under these circumstances. Although the DNR order is written at the request of a person or his or her family, it must be signed by a physician to be valid.	
End-of-Life care:	Doctors and caregivers provide care to patients approaching the end of life that is focused on comfort, respect for decisions, support for the family, and treatments to help psychological and spiritual concerns.	
Ethics:	A system of moral principles and rules that are used as standards for professional conduct. Many hospitals and other health care facilities have ethics committees that can help doctors, other healthcare providers, patients and family members in making difficult decisions regarding medical care.	
End stage:	The last phase in the course of a progressive disease. As in end-stage liver disease, end	

	appointed may be called a healthcare agent, surrogate, attorney-in-fact, or proxy.	
Neonates:	Newborn infants (less than one month old).	
Palliative Care:	The holistic care of patients with advanced, progressive, incurable illness, focused on the management of a patient's pain and other distressing symptoms and the provision of psychological, social and spiritual support to patients and their family. Palliative care is not dependent on diagnosis or prognosis, and can be provided at any stage of a patient's illness, not only in the last few days of life. The objective is to support patients to live as well as possible until they die and to die with dignity.	
Persistent vegetative state (PVS):	Also termed a 'permanent vegetative state'. An irreversible condition resulting from brain damage, characterised by lack of consciousness, thoughts and feeling, although some reflex activities, such as breathing, continue.	
Quality of life:	The term "quality of life" is used to describe a person's perception of their position in life within the culture and value systems he or she lives in, and in relation to his or her goals, expectations, standards, and concerns. It is a broad-ranging concept and incorporates the person's: • Physical health • Psychological state • Level of independence • Social relationships • Personal beliefs • Relationship to prominent features of the environment (example: the place of care)	
Radiation therapy:	Radiation therapy is the use of radiation (x-rays) to treat a range of diseases including cancer. Radiation therapy can be given on its own, or it might be given with other forms of treatment such as chemotherapy or surgery.	

