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Organisation of hospice and palliative care in Poland according to data from the

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[Short title: Organization of hospice and palliative care in Poland]

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Abstract

Introduction: The article presents an overview of the state of Polish specialist hospice and palliative care with a focus on the distribution of funding, types of provided care and organization of units.

Methods: The paper analyzed data from the National Health Fund's database and the Registry of Entities Performing Medical Activity.

Results: As of May 2023, 522 medical entities offer hospice and palliative care services in Poland, with 84.4% being exclusive for adults, 4.9% exclusive for children and 10.1% available for both. The majority of the agreement are set on the model of home hospice, stressing the need for providing care in a familial environment. More in-patient settings (including free standing stationary hospices and palliative medicine units in hospitals) and outpatient palliative medicine clinics also play a vital role in the provision of aforementioned services.

Conclusions: The study outlines the legal organization and structures of entities in Poland and provides insight into allocation of obligations to different types of services. The findings show progress but also highlight the persisting challenges in funding and resource allocation. In summary, the article provides insight for policymakers and authorities for expanding and improving hospice and palliative care in Poland, with a focus on comprehensive and compassionate care for patients and their families.

Keywords: Poland, hospice, palliative medicine, resource allocation, registries, financial management, adult

Introduction

Specialist palliative care in Poland is one of the guaranteed health services financed from public funds under the terms specified in the Regulation of the Minister of Health of October 29, 2013 on guaranteed services in the field of palliative and hospice care, hereinafter referred to as "regulation" [1]. These services are provided for adults and children in various forms, which can be divided into home care, inpatient care and outpatient care. In the year 2019, Ministry of Health in the "Maps of Health Needs", reported approximately 547,000 visits of specialised palliative home care teams at patients' homes, around 41,000 stays at inpatient settings and about 66,000 visits in outpatient clinics [2]. Different home care services are dedicated for adults and for children. According to the data from National Health Fund and Minister of Health in 2021 approximately 100,000 adults and more than 2,000 children receive specialised palliative care and 90% of patients over 18 are cancer patients [2, 3]. In 2019, in Poland, there were 1.5 units of palliative care per 100,000 inhabitants [the standard set by the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) is 2 units per 100,000

inhabitants], which puts our country in 7th place in Europe when it comes to access to these services according to the EAPC [4]. Access to specialist palliative care services in Poland is limited because eligible individuals usually have to wait for admission to all types of units. The most of them (more than 60% in 2020) were reported on the waitlist to home care, but the longest time of waiting was observed in inpatient units, where mean time of waiting was 43 days in urgent cases and 45 days in stable cases [2]. Most patients from the waitlist who are not admitted, die while waiting [5, 6]. The same requirements of referral are used to inpatient, outpatient and home specialist palliative care services. These referral criteria for adults require medical indications in form of life-limiting incurable diseases, not responding to diseasemodifying therapy found in the ICD-10 under the codes: B20–B24 (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome — AIDS), C00-D48 (neoplasms), G09 (sequelae of inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system), G10–G13 (systemic atrophies), G35 (multiple sclerosis), I42–I43 (cardiomyopathy), J96 (respiratory failure) and L89 (pressure ulcer) [1, 6]. For patients below 18 years of age, the list of diseases for which guaranteed benefits in the field of palliative and hospice medicine are provided is extended compared to adult list and includes, inter alia, paediatric malignant tumors, genetic abnormalities, neuromuscular disorders, coma, as well as human immunodeficiency virus related diseases [1].

Different home hospices are dedicated for children or adults, providing palliative care at the patient's home, including treatment, advice and support for patients and their family from a team of specialists (physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists). The services provided by the home hospices include patient examination, administration of drugs and needed diagnostic procedures at the patient's home as well as sharing medical equipment [1].

Inpatient specialist palliative care services are provided by inpatient hospices — separately operating units or palliative medicine wards located within hospitals. These facilities provide similar services performed by physicians and nurses, pharmacological treatment, pain management, treatment of other somatic symptoms, general rehabilitation and prevention of complications as well psychological care and guidance for patients and their family.

Palliative care outpatient clinics offer specialist consultations provided by physicians, nurses, administration of prescribed medicines and psychological consultations in the facility as well as visits at patient's homes [1]. Some units also provide perinatal palliative care for parents and the child in the case of severe and irreversible disability or incurable life-

threatening disease, arising in the prenatal period of the child's development or during childbirth [7].

Detailed requirements for the provision of guaranteed hospice and palliative services are presented in Table 1, which is based on the Regulation of the Minister of Health of October 29, 2013 on guaranteed services in the field of hospice and palliative care [1].

In this article, we aim to provide the summary of the hospice and palliative care organisation across Poland (as of May, 2023), including unit distribution, services provided, as well as the financing from National Health Fund.

Material and methods

The study was conducted using open access databases: the National Health Fund database called *Guidebook on concluded contracts*. Using the search engine for services available at https://www.nfz.gov.pl/o-nfz/informator-o-zawartych-umowach/, for each available Voivodeship Department of the National Health Fund we selected 'Palliative and hospice care' in the item 'type of benefit'. The details of each contract were analysed and the data figures are summarized using Statistica v13TM. Data from the 'Register of Entities Performing Medical Activity' (https://rpwdl.ezdrowie.gov.pl/) were also used in order to confirm the legal and administrational status of the units.

Results

According to data from National Health Fund database for May 2023, 522 medical entities in Poland provide services in the field of palliative and hospice care, of which 450 (84.4%) — exclusively for adults, 26 (4.9%) — exclusively for children and 54 (10.1%) — for both adults and children.

Overall, Polish public facilities operate based on 1125 agreements with National Health Fund for the provision of different guaranteed services in the field of palliative and hospice care, with most agreements being signed for home hospices. Figure 1 contains the summary of agreements by type of care provided.

Depending on the institution profile and their possibilities, units provide one or more kinds of palliative care. The overview of the number of units which can provide one, two, three and four types of palliative care is shown in Figure 2. Table 2 presents the summary of

the number of units conducting different profiles of care, including home care, inpatient and outpatient care offered within one unit.

Figure 2 outlines the number of types of palliative and hospice care services offered by medical entities. The data indicates that 305 units provide a single type of service, 145 units offer two types, 70 units provide three types, and 11 units offer the most comprehensive profile with four types of services. This diversity in the number of services offered reflects the varying capabilities and resources of different facilities.

Depending on, inter alia, the kind of owner of the facility or being a part of an institution, units which offer palliative care can be divided into different types of organizational and legal forms, including companies, foundation or association, independent public health facility, self-employed person and church legal entity. The number of facilities acting as these forms is summarized in Figure 3. Various types of companies account for the highest number (213) of healthcare settings, followed by foundations or associations (117), independent public healthcare facilities (91), self-employed individuals (66) and legal entities of churches or religious associations (37). Among these settings, 111 constitute units of hospitals and 9 operate within universities.

The total amount of obligations (product value) for all types of services (as of May 2023) is 754,510,597.51 Polish złoty (PLN), which are distributed into different fields of palliative care. The sum of contracts for inpatient services amounts to 399,746,089.79 PLN, while contracts for home services amount to 277,512,012.96 PLN. Moreover, home services for children are allocated 50,866,925.64 PLN, underscoring the significance of allocating resources to paediatric palliative care. Palliative care outpatient services account for the least sum — 3,939,001.24 PLN. The allocations of these obligations are presented in Figure 4.

Discussion

The present study provides a comprehensive overview of the organization of hospice and palliative care in Poland, with a focus on the distribution of units, types of care provided, and financing from the National Health Fund. The findings offer valuable insights into the current state of hospice and palliative care services in Poland, shedding light on various aspects that can be addressed to enhance the quality, analysing the needs and improve accessibility of these crucial services.

According to the analysis of agreements for the provision of public services, home hospices represent the most prevalent type, accounting for 593 agreements. This significant emphasis on home hospices may partly come from the low financial barrier of entry for initiating provision of this kind of services. A high number of home hospices in comparison to other types of palliative care services, comply with recommendations that consider home care to be preferred [8, 9]. In Western European countries, home hospices usually constitute a smaller percentage of facilities than in Poland, although there are also differences in the organization of palliative care in countries with a similar economic status. In France, home hospices constitute only 14% of facilities, in Germany and Austria it is about 30%, and in Italy the percentage reaches as much as 58% [4]. Studies confirm that in most circumstances, both patients and their families appreciate home palliative care and prefer it over spending their last chapter of life in a medical facility [10]. Thus, it is important to recognize the need for even further expansion of providing palliative care in a familiar environment, allowing patients to spend their final days surrounded by their loved ones [11]. The difference between the number of home and inpatient hospices is particularly visible when comparing the paediatric populations of Poland with other countries. In this population, the number of home hospices significantly exceeds the number of inpatient facilities [4].

Meanwhile, stationary hospices and palliative medicine wards in hospitals account for 254 agreements, indicating the availability of inpatient care. Palliative medicine outpatient clinics, with 177 agreements, also play an important role in providing consultations and support for patients with stable general conditions who can visit the clinics on their own. Additionally, home hospices for children (81 agreements) and perinatal palliative care (20 agreements) demonstrate the attention given to paediatric palliative care, encompassing specialized services for children and families facing life-threatening illnesses. Despite the need to establish palliative care teams in Polish hospitals, this type of service is not included in guaranteed services financed from public funds, which is the main barrier of its development [12].

In Recommendations on Organizational Standards for Specialist Palliative Care for Adult Patients, published in 2022, the Expert Group of National Consultants in Palliative Medicine and Palliative Care Nursing presented consensus on new organization of hospice and palliative care in Poland obtained in Delphi study [9]. This document was based on International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care consensus-based definition of palliative care and European Association for Palliative Care standards and norms for palliative

care as well as was supported by Polish Association of Palliative Care and Polish Palliative Care Nurses Association [13–17]. After the publication of these recommendations in 2022, the Minister of Health appointed a working group to prepare a draft of the long-term strategy for the development of palliative and hospice care [18]. Moreover, Polish Society of Palliative Medicine published their perspectives on new standards in specialist outpatient palliative care and home palliative care [19, 20]. The above initiatives may lead to changes in the organization, financing and access to palliative care in Poland.

The analysis of organizational and legal forms of medical entities in palliative care, highlights the varied landscape of institutions providing these services. This diverse range of organizational forms demonstrates the involvement of both public and private sectors in providing palliative and hospice care services in Poland. Such diversity may offer flexibility in service delivery and resource allocation, but it also raises the need for comprehensive coordination and collaboration among these entities to ensure the effective and equitable distribution of palliative care services across the country. Regardless of their legal form, all types of settings indicated in this study are financed on the same terms and conditions from public sources (National Health Fund). In addition, charitable support for palliative care services as well as volunteers' deployment provide access to additional funding sources [21, 22]. However, it varies depending on the activity of individual units in this area.

The financial aspect of palliative and hospice care is a critical consideration for sustaining and expanding these services. The sum of contracts for hospice and palliative services in May 2023, presented on Figure 4 (754,510,597.51 PLN), is not comparable with the total funds planned for hospice and palliative care services in 2023, as the situation changes throughout the year with new contracts being concluded and others coming to an end. Obtaining data close to the actual expenditure on palliative care would require determining the funds spent under each contract in a specific year, which is not possible in the National Health Fund's database. In comparison, the National Health Fund reported the costs of hospice and palliative care services were amounted to 733,000,000.00 PLN in 2018 and 813,000,000.00 PLN in 2019 and the value of expenditure on palliative care in Poland in the financial plan of the National Health Fund for a year 2022 was approximately 977.826,000.00 PLN [2, 23].

Despite the systematic increase in financial outlays for palliative care in Poland, the percentage of funds allocated to it from the National Health Fund is still below 1% of the total costs of health care services financed from public healthcare system [2]. The current valuation

of hospice and palliative care services comes from 2016 and is based on data from 2013 and 2014, which may be insufficient in the light of high inflation resulting from dynamic changes in the world, as well as rapidly aging Polish society [24, 25]. Expenditures determined on the basis of the analysis of contracts at the level of total 754.5 million in 2023 may also indicate a slowdown in the dynamics of expenditure growth, when compared to relatively more substantial increases in previous years. For example, the annual expenditure of the National Health Fund on palliative and hospice services amounted to about 414.4 million in 2015 to 667.6 million in 2017 [26]. Nevertheless, financing of palliative care services in Poland is still insufficient, because eligible patients in urgent cases are waiting for the admission to inpatient settings up to 43 days [2]. According to Public Information Bulletin of the Commissioner for Human Rights, palliative medicine services will be thoroughly analysed and revaluated by Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Tariffs in second half of 2023 [27].

The Ministry of Health and the National Health Fund also administer other databases that are not publicly available. Data from some of them can be obtained by submitting an application for access to information under the Act of September 6, 2001, on Access to Public Information. Nevertheless, data that would describe detailed information on access to palliative care (e.g. data from the Patient's Online Account regarding number of referrals and the number of people who did not get palliative care services, as well as the time from i the referral to its implementation) are not publicly available. These restrictions were introduced by the Act of 28 April 2011 on the Health Care Information System [Article 5(3a)]. Therefore, the government has access to actual data on access to palliative care.

Study limitations

While this study offers valuable insights into the organization and provision of palliative and hospice care in Poland, it is essential to acknowledge certain limitations of our search method, causing the possibility of vague inaccuracies. First, medical entities that have concluded contracts in more than one voivodship are listed in the system separately for each voivodeship. Moreover, in the National Health Fund database, we discovered situations of more than one contract for the same service being reported for the same entity. Although we considered these limitations and made efforts to correct them in our analysis, we take into account the possibility that our results concerning the number of services provided by units are slightly inflated compared with the actual state.

Conclusions

In conclusion, this article contributes valuable information about the usage of Big Data analysis in hospice and palliative care in Poland. The data obtained from official open access datasets on the distribution of units, types of care provided, and financial commitments highlights both strengths and areas for improvement in the palliative care system but are limited. The findings may serve as a foundation for policymakers, healthcare authorities, and stakeholders to further develop and enhance hospice and palliative care services, ensuring appropriate distribution of various types of palliative care facilities and funding for reimbursement, but should be analyse with caution. Moreover, the work indicates the need to expand the scope of publicly available information to determine actual access to hospice and palliative care services and to identify existing barriers. Efforts to strengthen interdisciplinary teams, expand access to different types of care, and foster collaboration between various organizational forms are essential steps toward achieving the highest quality of hospice and palliative care in Poland.

Article information and declarations

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None.

Author contributions

JD, JG, BK, KK, FL, MP, SR and KP contributed to the design and implementation of the research, to the analysis of the results and to the writing of the manuscript. LP conceived and supervised the project.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Supplementary material

None.

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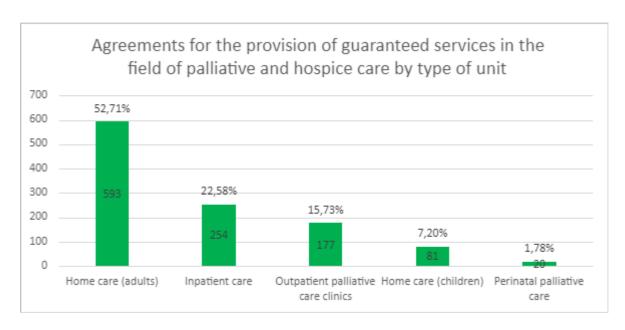


Figure 1. Agreements for the provision of guaranteed services in the field of palliative and hospice care by type of unit

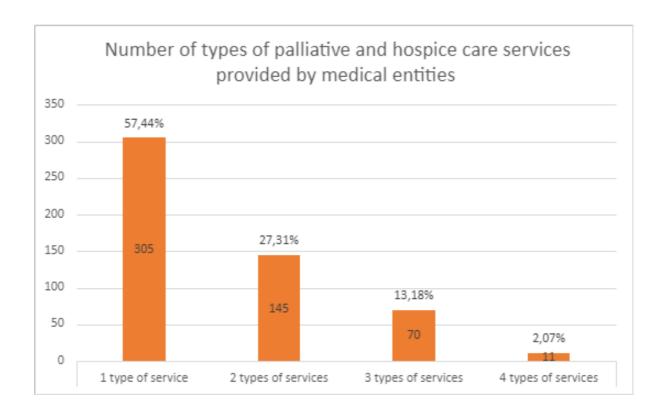


Figure 2. Number of types of palliative and hospice care services provided by medical entities

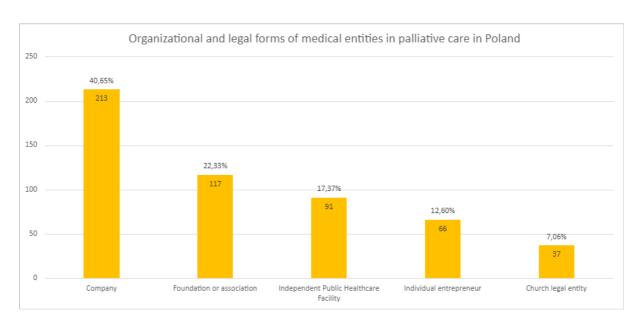


Figure 3. Organizational and legal forms of entities that provide palliative care services in Poland

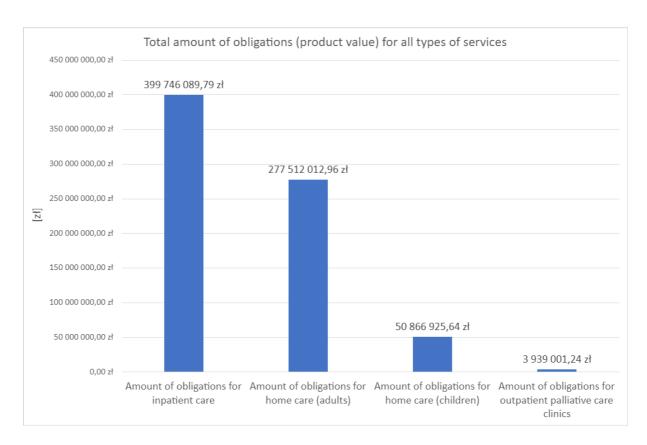


Figure 4. The total amount of obligations in Polish Złoty by type of palliative care service

Table 1. Requirements for the provision of guaranteed hospice and palliative services

	Inpatient care	Home hospice for adults	Home hospice for children	Outpatient care	Perinatal care
Medical staff	A specialist in the field of		A medical specialist in the field of	A specialist in the field of palliative	A medical specialist in the field of
	palliative medicine, or a		pediatrics, neonatology, pediatric	medicine, or a physician in the course	pediatrics, or neonatology, or
	physician in the course of	A specialist in the field of	neurology, pediatric oncology and	of specialization in palliative medicine,	perinatology, or pediatric neurology, or
	specialization in palliative	palliative medicine, or a physician	hematology, anesthesiology,	or a physician holding a document	pediatric oncology and hematology, or
	medicine, or a physician	in the course of specialization in	anesthesiology and resuscitation,	certifying completion of a course in	pediatric surgery, or anesthesiology, or
	holding a document certifying	<u>-</u>	anesthesiology and intensive care,	accordance with the palliative medicine	anesthesiology and resuscitation, or
	completion of a course in	palliative medicine, or a physician	pediatric surgery, or palliative	specialization curriculum	anesthesiology and intensive care, or
	accordance with the palliative	holding a document certifying	medicine, family medicine, or a		family medicine, or palliative medicine,
	medicine specialization	completion of a course in	physician in the course of		who possesses documented experience
	curriculum	accordance with the palliative	specialization of one of these fields,		of at least two years in palliative care
	1 full-time position for every	medicine specialization	or a physician holding a document		and at least one year of work
	10 places	curriculum	certifying completion of a course in		experience in a center specializing in
	To places	1 full-time position for every 30	accordance with the palliative		perinatal palliative care
		beneficiaries	medicine specialization curriculum		
			1 full-time position for every 20		
			beneficiaries		
	A nurse who has completed	A nurse who has completed	A nurse who has completed	A nurse who has completed	
	specialization in the field of	specialization in the field of	specialization in the field of palliative	specialization in the field of palliative	
	palliative care nursing, or is in	palliative care nursing, or is in the	care nursing, or is in the process of	care nursing, or is in the process of such	
	the process of such	process of such specialization, or	such specialization, has completed	specialization, or has completed a	
	specialization, or has completed	has completed a qualification	specialization in the field of pediatrics	qualification course in the field of	
	a qualification course in the	course in the field of palliative	care nursing and a specialist course in	palliative care nursing, or is in the	
	field of palliative care nursing,	care nursing, or is in the process	the fundamentals of pediatrics	process of such a course, or has	
	or is in the process of such a	of such a course, or has	hospice palliative care, or is in the	completed a specialist course in the	

course, or has completed a		process of such a course, or has	fundamentals of palliative care, or is in	
•			•	
specialist course in the		completed a qualification course in	the process of such a course	
fundamentals of palliative care,		the field of palliative care nursing, or		
or is in the process of such a		is in the process of such a course, or		
course	completed a specialist course in	has completed a qualification course		
25% of total working time of	the fundamentals of palliative	in the field of pediatrics care nursing		
nurses providing services to a	care, or is in the process of such a	and a specialist course in the		
given healthcare provider	course	fundamentals of pediatrics hospice		
given neutricure provider	25% of total working time of	palliative care, or is in the process of		
	nurses providing services to a	such a course, or has completed a		
	given healthcare provider (1	specialist course in the fundamentals		
	full-time position for every 15	of palliative care, or is in the process		
	beneficiaries)	of such a course		
	beneficiaries)	250/ . f		
		25% of total working time of		
		nurses providing services to a given		
		healthcare provider (1 full-time		
		position for every 12 beneficiaries)		
A psychologist, or a	A psychologist, or a psychologist	A psychologist, or a psychologist who	A psychologist, or a psychologist who	A psychologist, or a psychologist
psychologist who has	who has specialized in the field of	has specialized in the field of clinical	has specialized in the field of clinical	holding a specialist title in the field of
specialized in the field of	clinical psychology, or a psycho-	psychology, or a psycho-oncologist	psychology, or a psycho-oncologist	clinical psychology, or a
clinical psychology, or a	oncologist with psychological or	with psychological or medical	with psychological or medical	psychotherapist, who holds a diploma
psycho-oncologist with	medical education and a Master's	education and a Master's degree, or	education and a Master's degree, or	of a medical doctor or a master's
psychological or medical	degree, or after completing	after completing postgraduate studies	after completing postgraduate studies in	degree, has completed postgraduate
education and a Master's	postgraduate studies in psycho-	in psycho-oncology	psycho-oncology	training, or holds a psychotherapist
degree, or after completing	oncology	1 half-time position for every 12		certification
postgraduate studies in psycho-	1 half-time position for every 30	beneficiaries		
oncology	-	Deficilities		
	beneficiaries			
1 half-time position for every				

20 places			
An individual with a Master's or		An individual with a Master's or	T
Bachelor's degree in	An individual with a Master's or	Bachelor's degree in physiotherapy, a	
physiotherapy, a Master's	Bachelor's degree in	Master's degree in movement	
degree in movement	physiotherapy, a Master's degree	rehabilitation or rehabilitation, a	
rehabilitation or rehabilitation, a	in movement rehabilitation or	Master's degree in physical education,	
Master's degree in physical	rehabilitation, a Master's degree	along with a two-year specialization	
education, along with a two-	in physical education, along with	in therapeutic gymnastics or	
year specialization in	a two-year specialization in	rehabilitation, or after completing a 3-	
therapeutic gymnastics or	therapeutic gymnastics or	month specialization course in	
rehabilitation, or after	rehabilitation, or after completing	rehabilitation, a degree as a	
completing a 3-month	a 3-month specialization course in	physiotherapy technician, a Master's	
specialization course in	rehabilitation, a degree as a	degree from the Academy of Physical	
rehabilitation, a degree as a	physiotherapy technician, a	Education, and specialization in the	
physiotherapy technician, a	Master's degree from the	field of movement rehabilitation	
Master's degree from the	Academy of Physical Education,	1 quarter-time position for every 15	
Academy of Physical	and specialization in the field of	beneficiaries	
Education, and specialization in	movement rehabilitation		
the field of movement			
rehabilitation	1 quarter-time for every 15		
1 quarter-time position for	beneficiaries		
every 10 places			
An individual who has			
completed either a public or			
non-public school with the			
rights of a public school, and			
has obtained a diploma			
confirming professional			

	qualifications in the profession				
	of a medical caregiver, or an				
	individual who has completed a				
	qualifying vocational course				
	and has obtained a diploma				
	confirming professional				
	qualifications in the profession				
	of a medical caregiver				
	Hospital beds with adjustable	Oxygen supply (at least 1 per 10	Oxygen supply (at least 1 per 10		
	height, anti-decubitus	beds), electric suction pump (at	beds), electric suction pump (at least		
	mattresses, pillows, supports,	least 1 per 10 beds), inhalers,	1 per 10 beds), inhalers, glucometers,		
	rollers, body hygiene	glucometers, blood pressure	blood pressure monitors, infusion		
	equipment, bed elevators,	monitors, infusion pump (at least	pump (at least 1 for every 20 beds),		
	bedside screens, transfer	1 for every 20 beds), orthopedic	orthopedic crutches, orthopedic		
	boards, oxygen supply (at least	crutches, orthopedic canes,	canes, orthopedic walkers,		
Medical	1 per 3 beds), electric suction	orthopedic walkers, wheelchairs,	wheelchairs, nursing briefcase		
equipment	pump (at least 1 per 5 beds),	nursing briefcase containing	containing injection kit, fluid transfer		
	inhalers, glucometers, blood	injection kit, fluid transfer set,	set, dressing kit, infection protection		
	pressure monitors, first aid kit,	dressing kit, infection protection	equipment, catheter irrigation tray,		
	infusion pump (at least 1 for	equipment, catheter irrigation	enteral feeding tube, first aid kit,		
	every 15 beds), orthopedic	tray, enteral feeding tube, first aid	blood pressure measuring device,		
	crutches, orthopedic canes,	kit, blood pressure measuring	glucose tests, hand washing and		
	orthopedic walkers,	device, glucose tests, hand	sanitizing equipment		
	wheelchairs, ECG machine	washing and sanitizing equipment			
	Round-the-clock access to	Round-the-clock access to	Round-the-clock access to healthcare	Medical clinic is open for at least 3	Separate room for providing medical
Medical	healthcare services provided by	healthcare services provided by a	services provided by a doctor	times a week, 2.5 hours a day, including	advice
services	a doctor	doctor	Medical advice (at least twice a	at least 1 hour before 6 p.m.	
		Medical advice (at least twice a	month)		

	month)			
Round-the-clock access to	Round-the-clock access to	Round-the-clock access to healthcare	Patients can receive services in	Access to OB/GYN and Neonatology
healthcare services provided by	healthcare services provided by a	services provided by a nurse	outpatient care unit if their condition is	specialists
a nurse	nurse	Nursing visits (at least twice a	stable and they can reach the facility on	
	Nursing visits (at least twice a	week)	their own	
	week)			
	Medical advice or a visit by other	Medical advice or a visit by other	At most 2 visits a week can take place	Cooperation with midwife and
	medical staff	medical staff	in patient's home	specialits in OB/GYN
	Medical advice using IT services or other communication systems	Medical advice using IT services or other communication systems		Specialist in perinatal palliative care must have at least 3-years experience in Pediatrics field
	Adult patients can receive	Adult patients can receive services		Services in perinatal care are provided
	services under child palliative	under child palliative care if they		to newborns until the 28 day after the
	care if they were diagnosed with	were diagnosed with genetic disease,		birth
	genetic disease, or the disease	or the disease was diagnosed prior to		
	was diagnosed prior to the age of	the age of 18, or the patient can not		
	18, or the patient can not reach	reach adult palliative care centre due		
	adult palliative care centre due to	to remote place of residence or rare		
	remote place of residence or rare	nature of the disease		
	nature of the disease			

ECG — electrocardiogram; OB/GYN — obstetrics and gynecology

Table 2. Number of palliative care units conducting different profiles of care

Conditions	Number of units	Percentage
Home care (home hospieces)	189	35.5%

Inpatient care (inpatient	89	16.7%
hospices and palliative		
medicine wards in hospitals)		
Home and outpatient care	87	16.3%
Home and inpatient care	65	12.2%
Home, inpatient, and	56	10.5%
outpatient care		
Inpatient and outpatient care	23	4.3%
Home care for children	23	4.3%
Home, inpatient, outpatient,	8	1.5%
and home care for children		
and home care for children		