

First Steps in Spreading Legal Services Component for Palliative Care in Romania

Simion Alexandra, Malina Dumitrescu
Fundatia Hospice "Casa Sperantei" Brasov, Romania

BACKGROUND

The Palliative Care (PC) patients and caregivers who have benefited of legal support service revealed a continuous need of covering legal issues they met.

Access to legal right is often blocked by: bureaucracy, misunderstanding of legal norms, poor communication with public officers and authorities, lack of interest of those who could provide the legal rights.

Patients proposed different ways to solve or to decrease the number of their problems: existence of a family lawyer, existence of pro bono legal services, existence of a hospital lawyer.

Including a lawyer in PC team, we approached some of patient's proposal concluding that we need to go forward with our actions regarding legal services provided in the frame of PC.

AIM

- To maintain the model of legal support for PC patients and caregivers introduced by a specialized PC service in Romania and to extend the created model in other 3 settings.

RESULTS

Between October 2017-October 2018, a partnership was developed to extend the created legal model for PC.

There were distinct meetings in **three different PC settings**. During each meeting, the project team (social workers and lawyer under contract) presented the project, its benefits and discussed the possible ways of replicating it in the PC setting.

During implementation period, the project team offered support to the social workers from other 2 PC providers in their actions of finding and working with legal specialists.

There were **skype meetings** with the aim of **mentoring, identifying challenges, presenting results they had during this period** and establishing next steps in order to continue the collaboration.



CONCLUSION

This example of integrating legal part into palliative care services is a potential solution for offering legal support, a model of good practice for other PC services.

