## SPAIN

**Population:** 40,341,462

### Current Directory:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed version</th>
<th>Online version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Directorio SECPAL</td>
<td><a href="http://www.secpal.com/directorio">www.secpal.com/directorio</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key Contact/National Association

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### Palliative Care Services

**NK = not known**

#### Number of Palliative Care Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inpatient Palliative Care Units</th>
<th>Hospices</th>
<th>Consultant Teams in Hospitals</th>
<th>Home Care Teams</th>
<th>Day Centres</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult/Children</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatric only</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inpatient Palliative Care Units/Hospices</th>
<th>Chronic Hospitals/Nursing Homes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Bereavement Support Teams</td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments/Sources**

- The numbers of services reported are from the Spanish Directory of Services 2004 that uses restrictive criteria to show only specific resources of Palliative Care. There are other sources of information that provide higher data in addition: Health System from Autonomic Regions, Hospitalization at Home Teams, etc.
- There are geographic differences in Spain between Autonomic Regions. We could consider that there are three different levels of development of Palliative Care in Spain: Level high (more that 50% of coverage of Palliative Care): Catalonia, Extremadura, Navarra, Canarias, Rioja; Level medium (between 30-50% of coverage): at least the follow Castilla y León, Cantabria, Pais Vasco and some others;
**EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe**

Level low (less than 30% of coverage): regions with very slow implementation as for example Galicia and Valencia.

- Considering only Cataluña the provision of services could be as follow: 63 Palliative Care Units with 552 beds (22 of them in Hospital for non-Acute Patients); 34 Consultants Teams in Hospitals, 70 Home Care Teams (called PADES, they have structure and Palliative Care process but some of them are working also in the field of Geriatric patients at the Community. They attend 35,000 Palliative Care process, 12,400 cancer patients y 8,700 non-cancer patients.

[Directorio SECPAL 2004]
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]
[Departament de Salut i Departament de Benestar i Família, Catalonia]

### Adult Palliative Care Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer</th>
<th>(n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients who die at home with PC teams attending</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients who die in a general hospital with PC teams attending</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments/Sources**
- Percentage of patients with cancer/non-cancer diagnoses receiving palliative care is an estimate only.

[Directorio SECPAL 2004]
[Instituto Nacional de Estadística www.ine.es/]
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

### Palliative Care Workforce Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physicians</td>
<td>492</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Workers</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologists</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapists</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual/Faith leaders</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>NK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments/Sources**
- There are 111 palliative care units that have some volunteers, although the exact number of volunteers is unknown.
- Considering Catalonia only: there are 140 physicians full-time working in Palliative Care.

[Directorio SECPAL 2004]
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

### Funding of palliative care services

| Total number of palliative care services funded by the government | 135 |
| Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO’s | 11 |

**Comments/Sources**
- There are 115 palliative care services supported by a combination of private and
Perceived use of main opioids in palliative care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order of frequency</th>
<th>Opioid</th>
<th>Estimated cost per month (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First opioid</td>
<td>Fentanyl</td>
<td>88 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second opioid</td>
<td>Morphine</td>
<td>14 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third opioid</td>
<td>Buprenorphine</td>
<td>88 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments/Sources
[Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo www.msc.es]
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Key issues and challenges
- Lack of political commitment of some regional health ministries.
- Lack of appropriate professional leadership in some regions.
- The development of hospice and palliative care occurs at two different speeds, according to political involvement: some regions are implementing it very quickly (for example, Catalonia, Extremadura)

Palliative care milestones
- 1984-1991: First Palliative Care Services and Units: H. Valdecilla Santander, Hospital Santa Creu, Vic (Barcelona), Hospital El Sabinal (Las Palmas de Gran Canarias), Hospital Gregorio Marañón de Madrid.
- 1990-1995 Cataluña WHO Demonstration Project on Palliative Care
- 1991: First Home Care Team of the Spanish Association Against Cancer
- 1992 Spanish Society of Palliative Care was founded.
- 1994: The Spanish Ministry Decree improves the availability of strong opioids.
- 1994: First issue of “Medicina Paliativa” Spanish Journal of Palliative Care
- 1995 First Spanish Congress on Palliative Care and 4th European Congress in Barcelona
- 1997: First Edition of the Spanish Directory of Palliative Care
- 1999: www.secpal.com, a website for professionals in Spanish is launched
- 2001: National Plan on Palliative Care from Spanish Minister of Health
- 2004: Sociedad Española de Cuidados Paliativos (SECPAL) marks the publication of the Council of Europe (2003) report on palliative care (Recommendation 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the organisation of palliative care) by translating the document into Spanish and Galician.
- 2005: Palliative care is included in the ‘Plan Nacional de Cáncer’ - the
EAPC Task Force on the
development of Palliative Care in Europe

Ministry of Health recommends its implementation and recognises palliative care as a human right to be protected.

- 2006: A new national plan is now under consensus building, and 5 regions are in the process of implementing palliative care plans.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

**Health policy**

- Several regions (Catalonia, Canary Islands, Extremadura) have developed excellent programs based on WHO principles, and act as reference centres for others. There are 5 more regions with middle-sized implementation, and 5 more building up plans.
- The Catalan model is now being updated to cover non-cancer patients, and to extend general measures in conventional services.
- At the current time, there are no initiatives in Spain that seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide. Some political parties do seek such legislation, but the Spanish Minister of Health has said that this will not be considered within the next four years.
- A new National Palliative Care Plan is now being built under consensus.
- Five of 14 Autonomic Regions are in the process of implementing new palliative care plans for the first time: Galicia, Andalucia, Cantabria, Madrid, Asturias.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

**References**


Information correct as at: 7th August 2006.
EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe