

PALLIATIVE CARE UNITS

Teams comprised of professionals from various fields (e.g. medicine, nursing, psychology, physiotherapy, social work, pastoral care etc.) relieve the most severe symptoms

Palliative care units are hospital wards which specialise in caring for people in the advanced stages of incurable diseases. The aim of treatment is to alleviate symptoms and to improve the patient's physical, psychological and social well-being (also known as quality of life). If the patient cannot be discharged and sent home, the team from the palliative care unit are there to support the patient and relatives. In such cases, the aim is to find a joint solution to caring for the patient. In Germany, there are around 320 palliative care units.

SPECIALIST PALLIATIVE HOME CARE SERVICE

Available around the clock for severely ill patients who are in their own homes

SAPV stands for the care of seriously ill and dying patients in their own homes or in inpatient care facilities. Well-being and self-determination are ensured as far as possible. The SAPV team is available 24 hours a day, thus ensuring the safety of patients and their relatives. Your health insurance company will pay for SAPV services.

PALLIATIVE CARE DOCTORS

Doctors who have specialised in accompanying people with incurable diseases

In 1994, 14 doctors founded the German Association for Palliative Medicine (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Palliativmedizin, DGP); in 2016, around 10,000 doctors throughout Germany had completed additional specialist training in palliative care. They ensure that patients in medical practices, hospitals and specialist institutions such as hospices receive palliative care when they need it.

INPATIENT HOSPICES

An institution which accompanies seriously ill and dying patients at the end of their lives, as well as their relatives

A hospice is a place where the focus is on the nursing and psychosocial needs of dying patients and the accompaniment of their relatives, provided in a homely environment. Full-time and voluntary staff work closely with experienced palliative care (family) doctors. There are around 240 inpatient hospices in Germany. Guests (patients) are not charged for hospice stays.

OUTPATIENT HOSPICE SERVICES

Volunteers accompany seriously ill people and their relatives

Outpatient hospice services help the seriously ill to spend their last days at home in the company of relatives. They provide support in the patient's home, as well as in nursing homes and/or hospitals. Voluntary and full-time employees of the approximately 1,500 outpatient hospices in Germany offer advice on the topics of care and support towards the end of the patient's life. In collaboration with (family) doctors and nursing services, they accompany the family through the patient's death and subsequent mourning period. There are around 100,000 volunteer hospice companions throughout Germany.

HOSPITAL PALLIATIVE CARE SUPPORT TEAM

From an early stage, teams of nurses, doctors and therapists provide counselling and support in the hospital

Palliative care services consist of specialist hospital teams. They ensure that severely ill patients with incurable diseases receive the best possible treatment for their symptoms, regardless of the ward they are in. This is especially important if patients are not (yet) in a palliative care unit, or the hospital in question does not have a palliative care unit.