

ACCESS TO EARLY PALLIATIVE CARE

Background

Palliative care was administered to approximately 1.250 patients in Oost-Veluwe in the Netherlands in 2016. Often the need for palliative care was recognized too late. A lack of cohesion, along with a missing central role for the patient and their wishes and needs, often occurred in this form of care.

Aims

Defining and prioritising this resulted in a transmural palliative care pathway; with the goals of early identification, continuous guidance and attention to patient's needs.

Methods and approach

- informing about and training identification to medical specialists and GP's
- setting up a referral system
- developing a wish book with patients

- training 21 palliative nurses at 11 homecare organisations
- coordination by network coordinators
- setting up a registration and evaluation system
- start care pathway 1 January 2018

Conclusion

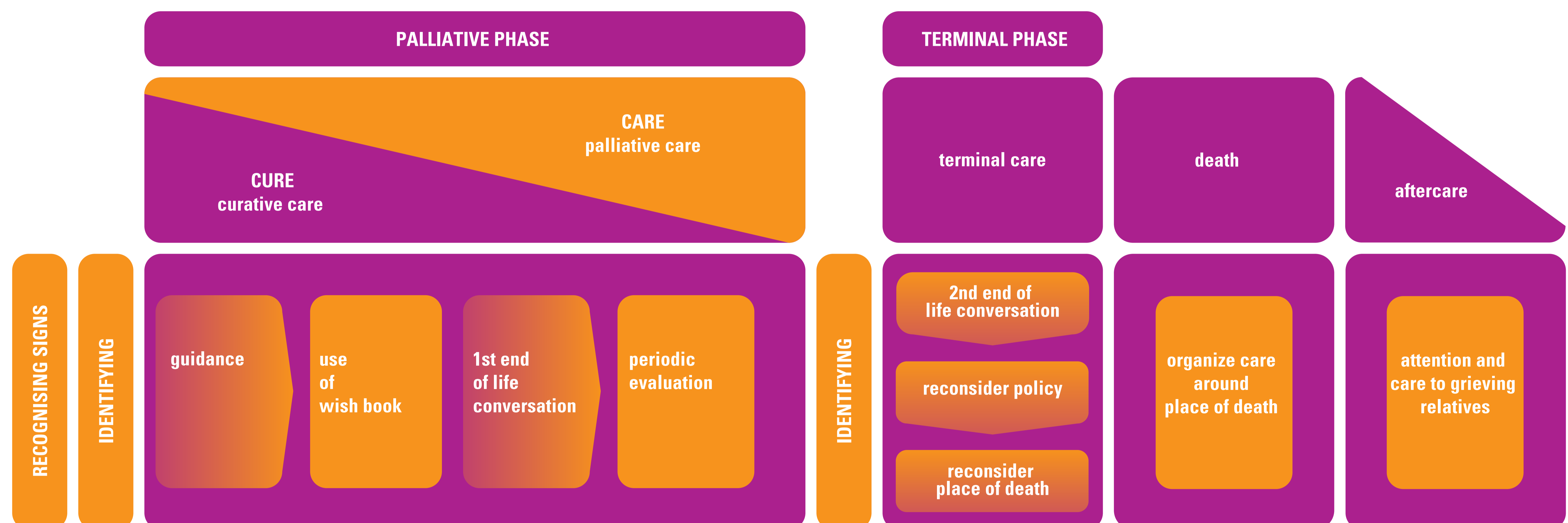
- more people died in the desired place, at home, than usual in the Netherlands
- there seem to have been few emergency admissions at the hospital
- identifying the palliative phase is often late

- various organisations are capable of cooperating together; enthusiastic professionals and satisfied patients

Lessons learned

- it's work in progress
- training doctors in early identification remains a point of attention
- 88% of those who died were oncological patients, other palliative patients deserve the same level of care
- not everyone is comfortable discussing their own wishes and needs

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RESULTS 2018

- 132 patients included, 58% via GP, 41% via specialists, 2 patients (1,5%) registered themselves.
- 68 patients passed away, of whom:
 - 88% were oncological patients
 - 34% used the wish book
 - 80% died at home; the preferred place for 81% of them
 - 84% did not need acute hospital admission
 - on average 1-10 visits received from palliative care nurses
 - the average duration in the pathway was 51 days

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Institutes

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