

# Paediatric Referrals to a Community Specialist Palliative Care Service: A Retrospective Profile



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## Background

The provision of specialist palliative care to children with life-limiting illnesses is an evolving service internationally.

Referrals to community specialist palliative care teams (CSPCT) are increasing to provide continued support and quality collaborative care to patients and family in the home<sup>1</sup>.

Children with life-limiting conditions can have complex symptomatology and an unpredictable disease trajectory<sup>2</sup>, therefore it is important that CSPCT have an understanding of the patient cohort.

## Aims

To evaluate the profile of paediatric referrals to a CSPCT.

To assess the indication for referral.

To demonstrate collaboration with other healthcare professionals (HCP) involved.

## Methods

Retrospective chart review of patients aged 0-16 years referred to a CSPCT from July 2013 to July 2017.

Data was collected using Microsoft Excel.

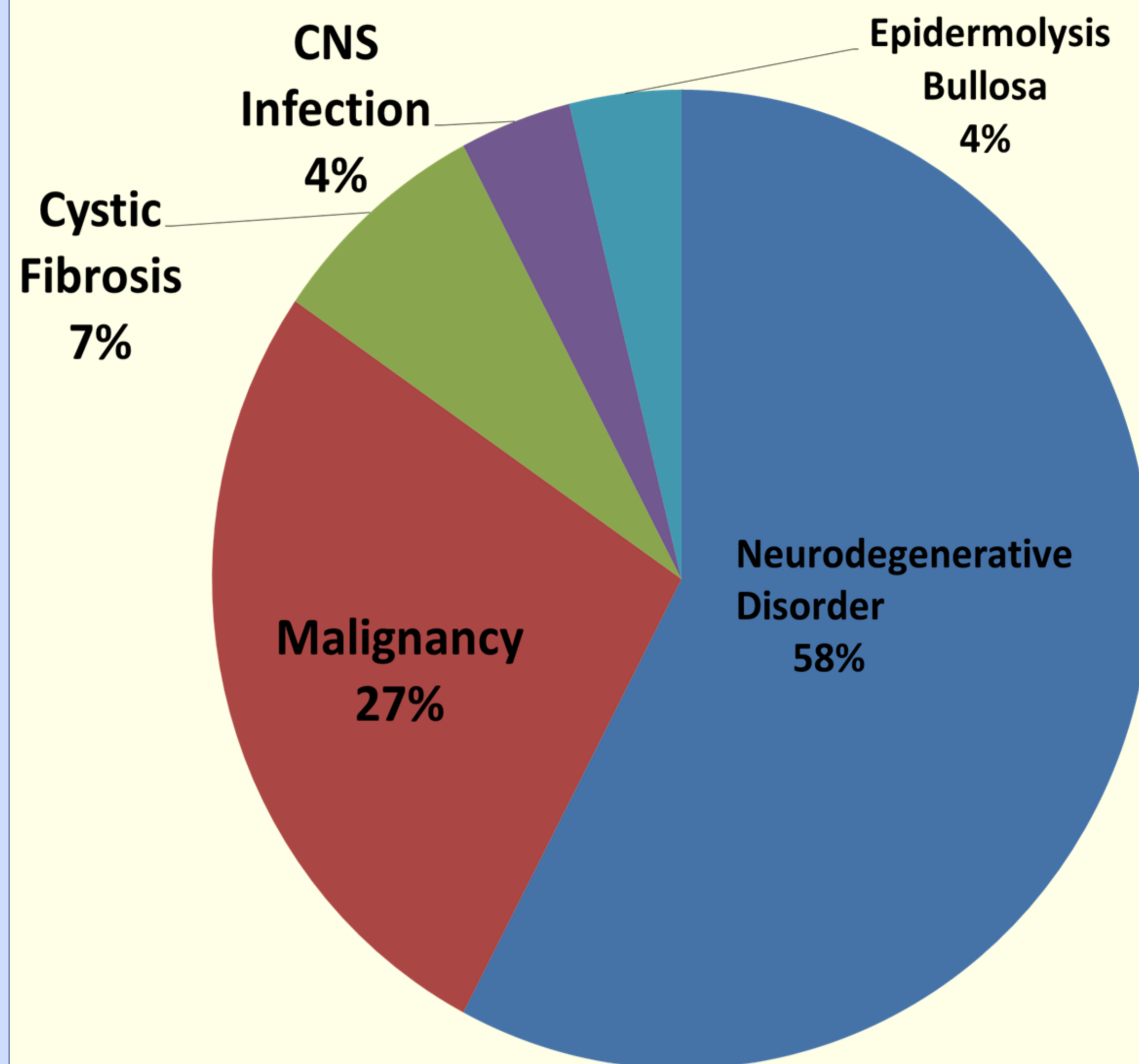
## Conclusions

Majority of referrals were received from the paediatric service for patients with neurodegenerative disorders.

CSPCT, in collaboration with other HCP facilitated end of life care at home for 91% of patients.

This review gives an insight into the complexity of this population. The introduction of Complexity and Outcome measurement<sup>3</sup> recording will assist with service evaluation and improvement in the future.

## Results



### Patient Profile

26 Patients  
- 15 Male  
- 11 Female

14 Patients – Seizure Disorder

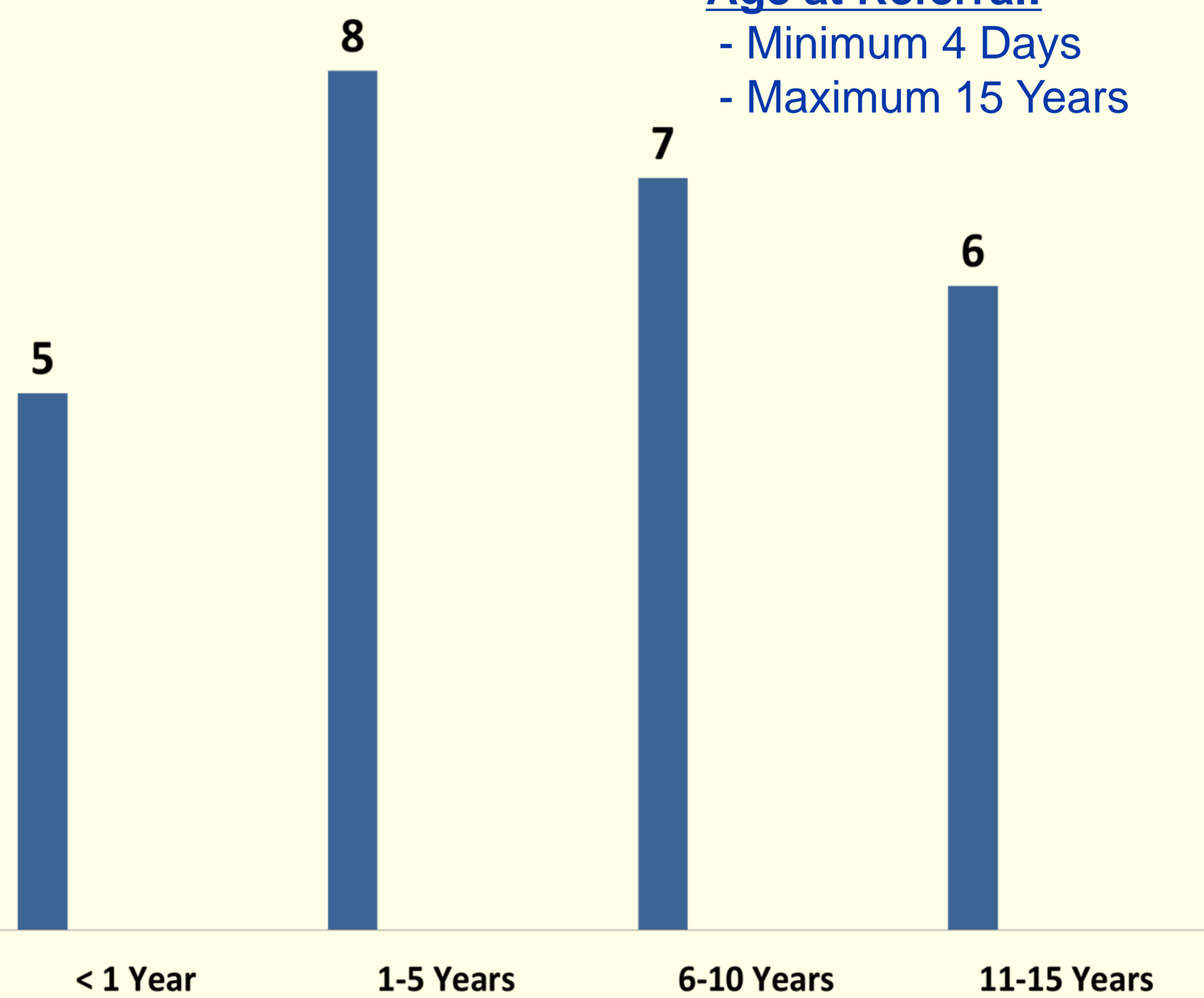
19 Patients – Enteral Feeding

23 patients died - 91% of deaths occurred at home

3 patients - Discharged

### Age at Referral:

- Minimum 4 Days  
- Maximum 15 Years



### Source of referral (N):

Paediatric (17)  
Oncology (4)  
Haematology (3)  
General Practice (1)  
Neurosurgery (1)

### Indication:

Symptom Management  
Advanced Illness  
Clinical Deterioration  
Family Support  
Parent request  
End of Life care

320



### Collaboration

Hospital teams  
Jack & Jill Foundation  
Public Health Nurse  
Night Nursing  
Community Outreach Nurse  
Allied Healthcare Professionals  
General Practitioners



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1. Craig F, Abu-Saad Huijjer, Benini F, et al. IMPaCCT: Standards for Paediatric Palliative Care in Europe. *Eur J Palliat care* 2007;14:109-114

2. Palliative Care for Children with a Life-Limiting Conditions in Ireland. A National Policy 2009, Department of Health & Children.

3. Bausewein C, Daveson B, Benalia H, Simon ST, Higginson IJ. Outcome Measurement in Palliative care: The essentials. 2011 PRISMA.