

Supplementary Material – indicators metadata

**Region-specific macroindicators of palliative care development in the
Eastern Mediterranean Region: a Delphi study**

Name of indicator	Working concept	Potential question to explore	Answer options and/or unit	Source of information
Number of specialized PC services in the country per population	Specialized PC programmes refer to healthcare programmes whose main activity is the provision of PC. These programmes often provide care for patients with complex needs or severe suffering, and therefore, require staff with specialized training. The staff generally includes at least 1 doctor and 1 nurse with training in PC, although in some areas, a specialized PC programme may be run only by a nurse with advanced or specialized training in PC.	What was the total number of PC services operating in your country in 2019?	Number of PC services	Ministry of Health or expert estimation
Paediatric PC provision	This indicator explores the PC provision for children in your country. PC provision specific to children includes: free standing hospices and hospices for children that are a part of public or NGO hospitals, any kind of other hospices or homecare teams, support teams in hospitals, PC units, inpatient units in hospices specific for children.	Which of the following categories best describes PC activity related to children in your country?	Category 1, no known PC activity for children Category 2, capacity building PC activity for children Category 3a, Isolated children's PC provision Category 3b, generalized children's PC provision Category 4a, children's PC services are available through a variety of PC providers and types of services Category 4b, children's PC services are available through a variety of PC providers and types of services on an ongoing basis.	Expert estimation
Current national PC plan, programme, policy or strategy	National plan or programme refers to regulatory and official publications that are applicable to the whole country (these could be in the form of laws or other official documents). These publications are usually endorsed by the national health authority and contain norms and standards for the development of PC, regulations relating to its service provision and in some cases guidelines for PC research. It should have national scope, be designed to integrate PC in healthcare services, count with an assigned budget and a responsible person.	Does your country have any of the following? A reference to PC in national strategies for cancer A reference to PC in national strategies for noncommunicable diseases (e.g., AIDS or cardiovascular disease) A national strategy or plan specific to PC A national PC strategy that has been implemented and is regularly evaluated A national PC strategy that has been implemented and is regularly evaluated and updated A designated branch/unit/desk/person within the Ministry of Health with responsibility for PC	Yes No In progress	Ministry of Health or expert estimation

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Specific PC national law	This indicator measures the existence of national legislation specific to PC	Does your country have any of the following? A reference to PC in decrees/norms other than in a national law (could be a regional law) A reference to PC in a national law A specific (stand-alone) PC law or recognition of PC as a right in the constitution Do not resuscitate-related laws and regulations	Yes No In progress	Ministry of Health or expert estimation
Inclusion of PC services in the basic package of health services	Usually and regulated through national health laws, countries establish a catalogue of services that stipulates those that should be available and provided at the primary care level in the country. One of those services included in the list should be PC. This indicator aims at assessing only the inclusion of PC in the list of services provided at primary care level but not its implementation. Inclusion of the specific PC term in the list is compulsory in order to answer “yes” to this indicator.	Have PC services been included in the basic package of health services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Yes, but only for patients with oncological diseases • Yes, for all patients, with any diseases •No 	Ministry of Health or expert estimation
Allocation of funds for PC in the national health budget by the Ministry of Health or equivalent government agency	Ministry of Health or equivalent government agency has reserved some type of funding in the annual national health budget for PC provision. PC activities are understood as those actions taken to improve PC provision.	How is PC funded in your country?	Government-funded on a regular basis Partial government funds (pilot projects) Health insurance or national pension schemes Costs met by nonprofit organisations (e.g., NGOs, charities, civil society) Direct payment by patients/relatives Other (please specify)	Ministry of Health or expert estimation
Process of official specialization in palliative medicine for physicians, recognised by the competent authority	Official specialization in palliative medicine refers to any formal process (or schedule of training/education) that provides official certification and accredits a higher level of competence to the physician working in the area of palliative medicine	Official process for specialization in palliative medicine for physicians, accredited by the national responsible authority (as specialty, subspecialty, special area of competence or other advanced accreditation diploma)?	Yes (specialty/subspecialty/special area of competence/other advanced accreditation diploma (namely...)) No, but a process of specialization is in progress No, but a specialization done abroad is officially recognized in the country No, but we have a certification of competence with a diploma (not granted by the national competent authority) No, there is none	National responsible authority or expert estimation

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Education for prequalified doctors/nurses	Formal training in PC is taught to future physicians and nurses (either as compulsory or as optional). Formal training means a substantial number of hours.	What is the total number of medical schools/nursing in the country? Number of medical/nursing schools that offer a mandatory course or subject specifically dedicated to PC as part of their curricula Number of medical/nursing schools that offer mandatory PC education in combination with other related disciplines (e.g., a mandatory course of oncology and PC) Number of medical/nursing schools that teach mandatory PC transversally, integrated into the curricula Number of medical/nursing schools that teach PC optionally	Number of PC educational programmes	National responsible authority or expert estimation
Availability of morphine and other strong opioids	This indicator measures whether or not the country has immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet) generally available in primary healthcare facilities in the public health sector	Please tell us to what extent patients in need of PC in your country have access to each step of the ladder.	Step 1 of the ladder (e.g., paracetamol, aspirin) (always, usually, occasionally, never, don't know) Step 2 of the ladder (e.g., codeine, tramadol) (always, usually, occasionally, never, don't know) Step 3 of the ladder (e.g., morphine, fentanyl) (always, usually, occasionally, never, don't know)	National responsible authority or expert estimation
Reported annual opioid consumption – excluding methadone – in OME per capita	These data represent the amounts of opioids distributed legally in a country for medical use to healthcare institutions and programmes that are licensed to dispense to patients, such as hospitals, nursing homes, pharmacies, hospices and PC programmes	Opioid consumption milligram/capita/year – excluding methadone – in OME	Milligrams per capita per year, expressed in ME	International Narcotics Control Board
Existence of professional vitality regarding PC	This indicator explores aspects regarding professional vitality in PC, such as the existence of at least 1 national PC association, PC services directory, national journal of PC, and PC congress	Does your country have any of the following? Please select.	Evidence of PC professional or policy meetings (Yes/no/in progress) Existence of a PC national association (Yes/no/in progress) A directory of PC services that is updated regularly (Yes/no/in progress) PC clinical standards or clinical guidelines (Yes/no/in progress) A national journal PC (Yes/no/in progress) A national PC conference once every year or once every 2 years (Yes/no/in progress) Evidence of professional co-operation with other specialties outside PC (Yes/no/in progress)	Expert estimation

NGO = nongovernmental organization; OME = oral morphine equivalence; PC = palliative care.