End of Life Issues

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/endoflifeissues.html

Also called: Death and dying, Terminal care

Sometimes, in spite of treatment, a condition or illness will cause death. In those cases, patients can decide what they do and do not want done. They can decide whether they want aggressive treatment that might prolong life or whether they prefer to stop treatment, which could mean dying sooner but more comfortably. They may want to plan their own funeral. Advance directives can help make the patient's wishes clear to families and health care providers.

Care at the end of life focuses on making patients comfortable. They still receive medicines and treatments to control pain and other symptoms. Some patients choose to die at home. Others enter a hospital or a hospice. Either way, services are available to help patients and their families deal with issues surrounding death.

Start Here
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cancer.gov/espanol/pdq/cuidados-medicos-apoyo/etapafinal/]

Overviews
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cancer.gov/espanol/recursos/hojas-informativas/apoyo-recursos/cuidado-paciente-terminal]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cancer.org/Espanol/servicios/Cuandoelfinalesestacecercad/fragmentado/cuando-el-final-esta-cerca-intro]

Latest News

Coping
- Care of the Family [http://www.stoppain.org/palliative_care/content/endlife/family.asp] (Beth Israel Medical Center, Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care)
- End of Life Choices - Hanging on and Letting Go [http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=400] (Family Caregiver Alliance)
- Terminal Illness: Supporting a Terminally Ill Loved One
Specific Conditions


  Also available in Spanish [http://familydoctor.org/familydoctor/es/prevention-wellness/staying-healthy/first-aid/cardiopulmonary-resuscitation-cpr.printerview.all.html]


- End of Life Care [http://www.healthinaging.org/aging-and-health-a-to-z/topic:end-of-life-care/] (AGS Foundation for Health in Aging)

- End of Life Choices - Feeding Tubes and Ventilators [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=399] (Family Caregiver Alliance)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=539]

- End of Life: Caring for a Dying Loved One [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/cancer/CA00048/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

- Final Days [http://www.hpna.org/pdf/teachingsheet_finaldays.pdf] (Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association) - PDF
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.hpna.org/PicView.aspx?ID=450]

- Food and Fluid Issues at End of Life [http://www.hpna.org/pdf/TeachingSheet_foodandfluidissues.pdf] (Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association) - PDF
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.hpna.org/PicView.aspx?ID=446]


- Planning Your Own Funeral [http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0305-planning-your-own-funeral] (Federal Trade Commission)


- When You Have Pain at the End-of-Life [http://www.acponline.org/patients_families/pdfs/health/end_pain.pdf] (American College of Physicians) - PDF

Related Issues

  Also available in Spanish [http://familydoctor.org/familydoctor/es/healthcare-management/end-of-life-issues/autopsy.printerview.all.html]


- If You or Someone You Love is Very Ill...Ask Tough Questions
Financial Issues

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-burial-funds.htm]
- Buying a Cemetery Site [http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0304-buying-cemetery-site] (Federal Trade Commission)
- Choosing a Funeral Provider [http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0304-buying-cemetery-site] (Federal Trade Commission)
- Survivors Benefits [http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10084.html] (Social Security Administration)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.ssa.gov/espanol/10984.html]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Terminal Care [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Terminal%22+Care%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)

Research


Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Funeral rites – see more articles [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?]
Dictionaries/Glossaries
- Funeral Terms and Contact Information [http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0306-funeral-terms-and-contact-information] (Federal Trade Commission)
- Glossary [http://www.stoppain.org/main_site/content/glossary.asp] (Beth Israel Medical Center, Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care)
- Glossary: What Is Palliative Care? [http://www.getpalliativecare.org/whatis/glossary] (Center to Advance Palliative Care)

Directories
- Where to Write for Vital Records [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm] (National Center for Health Statistics)

Organizations
- Family Caregiver Alliance [http://www.caregiver.org/]
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization [http://www.nhpco.org/]

Law and Policy
- End of Life Choices - CPR and DNR [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=397] (Family Caregiver Alliance)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=540]

Children
- End-of-Life Care for Children With Terminal Illness (For Parents) [http://kidshealth.org/parent/system/ill/bfs_hospice_care.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/medicos/bfs_hospice_care_esp.html]
- When Somebody Dies [http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/emotion/somedie.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/kid/en_espanol/sentimientos/somedie_esp.html]

Patient Handouts
- Deciding about treatments that prolong life [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000468.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000468.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000473.htm]
- Palliative care - what the final days are like [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000533.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000533.htm]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:
- Deciding about treatments that prolong life [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000468.htm]
- Palliative care - what the final days are like [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000533.htm]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:
The primary NIH organization for research on *End of Life Issues* is the National Institute of Nursing Research [http://www.ninr.nih.gov/]


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