



## **World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2017 – Key Messages**

### **Universal Health Coverage and Palliative Care – Don't leave those suffering behind**

#### **COUNT**

**In 42% of the world's countries there is ZERO availability of palliative care.**

- Measure what matters. Are health services accessible, of sufficient quality and affordable for all?
- What gets measured gets done! Measure palliative care coverage as part of UHC
- We must hold our leaders, our health systems and ourselves to account to care for those living with life-limiting illness
- Don't wait for political action: demand it. We must hold leaders accountable for leaving no one with life-limiting illness behind!
- In only 20 countries is palliative care well integrated into the health care system
- 40 million people need palliative care annually including 20 million at the end of life
- Only 14% of the need for palliative care is being met at the end of life, less than 10% overall
- 78% live in low and middle income countries.

#### **CARE**

**It isn't Universal Health Coverage without universal access to palliative care**

- Universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need
- Palliative care is an essential, defining part of Universal Health Coverage
- Universal Health Coverage, including palliative care, is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
- UHC means everyone must be able to access the health services they need, including palliative care, without being forced into financial hardship
- Every person deserves access to quality, affordable health services, including palliative care
- UHC is driven by equity and human rights. We must bring UHC including palliative care to those who need it most.

- People who need palliative care have some of the greatest healthcare needs. They must be included in UHC.

## **COST**

**Palliative care can reduce the financial burden on households driven by serious chronic and life-limiting illness.**

- No one should face destitution and poverty when they get sick
- Financial risk occurs through paying for costly treatment not covered by national health systems
- Households with people with life-limiting illness may face high costs and potential financial hardship for futile treatments
- Loss of income by the person who is ill or their carers can lead to financial risk
- Costly travel when treatment and care services are situated far from home increases financial risk to people with serious illness and their families
- In most parts of the world, hospice and palliative care organisations provide free services to the people and families accessing care
- Palliative care must be included in all UHC schemes.

## **Resources**

- WHPCA report: UHC and Palliative Care: Do not leave those suffering behind! <http://bit.ly/2fTgbLk> <http://www.thewhpc.org/resources/item/uhc-and-palliativecare/>
- WHPCA report: Palliative care and the global goal for health. <http://bit.ly/2h6dB5O>
- Rob Yates presentation: It is not #UHC without palliative care! <http://bit.ly/2htxcgH>
- Imagine: UHC and palliative care video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0xy1jMwDBg>