

Key findings

National Audit for Care at the End of Life
England, Wales and Jersey 2025



Quality improvement plans

81% of hospital/sites had implemented a quality improvement plan relating to end of life care in the past year. Of these hospital/sites, **69%** had shared these plans with the ICB/Health Board in the past year.

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Access to Specialist Palliative Care services

97% of hospital providers have specialist palliative care services. Of these, **64%** offer face-to-face (nurse and/or doctor) care 8 hours/day, 7 days a week, and **89%** provide 24/7 telephone (nurse and/or doctor) support.

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Timeliness of specialist palliative care services

58% of patients audited by the Case Note Review had been reviewed by a member of the specialist palliative care team/end of life care team during their final admission.

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Recognition of dying

Of the patients audited by the Case Note Review, **84%** were expected to die during their final hospital admission. For these patients, the median time between first recognition that the patient might die (within days or hours) and death was **52 hours (2.2 days)**.

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Hydration options

82% of the clinical case notes sampled had documented evidence of hydration options in the last days of life, including drinking if able, an improvement from **78%** in 2024.

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Pain relief

78% of bereaved respondents agreed that the dying person received sufficient pain relief during their final hospital admission, while **12%** disagreed with this statement.

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Spiritual, religious and cultural needs



An assessment of the spiritual, religious and cultural needs of those important to the dying person (or a recorded reason if this wasn't possible) was documented in **49%** of cases. The **95%** confidence interval (a measure of uncertainty) suggests the true proportion is likely to be between **47.9%** and **49.3%**. This marks an improvement from **41%** in 2024.

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Care and support



The care and support provided to the dying person was rated as excellent or good by **77%** of bereaved respondents, whilst **75%** of bereaved respondents rated the care and support given to themselves and others as excellent or good. Bereaved respondents were more likely to rate the care as excellent or good when delivered in a community hospital.

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Personalised care and support planning



From the Case Note Review, **47%** of patients whose clinical notes were sampled had evidence that they had participated in personalised care and support planning, including advance care planning, conversations (95% confidence interval: 46.5% to 47.9%).

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Individualised plan of care



Of the people expected to die during the hospital admission, **86%** had an individualised plan of care addressing their needs at the end of life. Of these, **56%** were documented on a standalone template and **29%** within the general clinical notes.

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Equitable care



When reviewing patient ethnicity, **89%** of the clinical case notes included documentation of the patient's ethnicity and **11%** reported ethnicity as either not stated or unknown.

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End of life care training



Progress in the availability of end of life care training remains limited. **52%** of hospital/sites provided mandatory end of life care training during 2024/25.

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