

# Charter for people with a terminal illness

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Northern Ireland



Care and support  
through terminal illness

Marie Curie believes everyone has the right to live well until they die. Yet we know from our research that an estimated 3,000 people with a terminal illness in Northern Ireland are missing out on the care they need. We know that a number of barriers can prevent people accessing the care they need, including a lack of awareness around what palliative care is and what services are available, or the type of condition they have.

We believe that by endorsing this charter you will be helping to raise awareness of how someone with a terminal illness should be treated. You will also be supporting clinicians and service providers to deliver the highest levels of care and calling for decision makers to champion the rights of people living with a terminal illness.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk to you further about the issues identified in this charter or our services.

# Charter

We believe everyone in Northern Ireland has the right to...

## 1. Be treated with dignity and respect

- The right for you and your family and carers to have appropriate privacy and be treated with respect and dignity when you're receiving care and support.
- The right for your emotional and spiritual needs to be met at the end of your life, as far as possible.
- The right for your body to be treated with dignity and respect after your death.

## 2. Receive high quality care and support when and where you need it

- The right to 24/7 care and support in your place of choice, whether that's at home, or as close to home as possible.
- The right to have equal access to care and support and not be discriminated against because of your condition, religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, disability or dependency.
- The right to high quality care and support which helps manage your pain, delivered by appropriately trained staff in palliative and end of life care.
- The right to the assurance that the care you receive is monitored and evaluated in line with best practice and relevant clinical standards.
- The right for your family and carers to receive appropriate bereavement support before and after your death.
- The right to redress in case of mistreatment, complaint or abuse.

## 3. Be included in making decisions about your care

- The right to be placed at the centre of all conversations about your care and support.
- The right to have your last wishes and advance decisions sought, recorded and respected, and that if you are unable to make decisions about the care and support you want, that your family and carers will be involved in decision-making relating to your care.

## 4. Be informed about the care and support you receive

- The right for you and your family and carers to be fully informed of what services, entitlements and support is available.

# For more information, please contact:

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We're here for people living with any terminal illness, and their families. We offer expert care, guidance and support to help them get the most from the time they have left.

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