

## Marie Curie Cancer Care Research Programme - Project Grant

Project details
<p><b>Dr Mary Turner</b>, Lancaster University</p> <p><b>Both sides of the fence: using action research to improve end of life care for prisoners</b></p> <p>Duration of project: 30 months Start date: 01/06/2013 (TBC) Budget: £170k (TBC)</p>

Abstract
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The End of Life Care Strategy recommends that high quality end of life care should be available to anyone who needs it, including those in prison. The provision of high quality care for the ageing population of prisoners with end of life care needs requires staff from inside and outside the prison to find ways of working across this interface.</p> <p><b>Aim</b></p> <p>The aim of this research is to improve end of life care for prisoners, by devising a transferable model of integrated end of life care that involves prison staff and specialist palliative care staff, to enhance the delivery of high quality care for prisoners with palliative care needs.</p> <p><b>Methods</b></p> <p>The study will use participatory action research, which describes, interprets and explains social situations whilst implementing and evaluating changes aimed at improving practice. Staff from specialist palliative care and a high security prison, with guidance and facilitation from a researcher, will be active participants in this three-phased study. Phase 1 will consist of a situational analysis of current end of life care in prison. Focus groups and interviews will be conducted with staff from prison healthcare, prison security, family liaison, primary care and specialist palliative care to gain multiple perspectives. In Phase 2, action cycles will take place with prison staff and specialist palliative care staff. Staff will identify problems, and plan and undertake actions, which will ultimately lead to the development of a model of integrated end of life care. In Phase 3 deliberative panels will be used to further refine and share the model with staff from other prisons and specialist palliative care services, and policy makers.</p> <p><b>How the results of this research will be used</b></p> <p>The findings of this study will be widely disseminated via workshops, conferences, publications, networks and websites to reach staff and policy makers in both prison and health services. This research will improve palliative care for prisoners by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing knowledge transfer about palliative care across prisons;</li> <li>• Enabling prison staff to recognise and address prisoners' palliative care needs;</li> <li>• Improving communication between different groups of staff about dying prisoners;</li> <li>• Increasing prison and specialist palliative care staff confidence in caring for dying prisoners;</li> <li>• Providing tools to help staff work across the interface between specialist palliative care and prisons;</li> <li>and</li> <li>• Developing a contextually appropriate model for improving palliative care across prisons.</li> </ul>