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Purpose

- In order to deliver high-quality care in long term care facilities, a further integration of palliative care, including strong links with Primary Care providers, is needed.

Context

- Governments are struggling to provide high-quality long-term care for people with chronic advanced diseases and reduced functional and/or cognitive capacities in long term care facilities.

State of the art

- PACE is a European funded project (FP7, 2014-2019) comparing the effectiveness of PAlliative Care for Elderly people in long term care facilities in Europe and aims to advise policy-makers on optimal palliative care practices.
- PACE compares 3 EU countries with formal palliative care structures in long term care facilities with 3 EU countries without such formal structures.
- PACE investigates the impact of an innovative health service intervention ‘Route to Success’.
- PACE and its’ dissemination partner EFPC will set-up a working group for Primary Care professionals in order to involve those Primary Care professionals who provide palliative care at different places and moments within care provision.

Statements

- For a higher quality of care in long term care facilities, further integration of palliative care within long-term care facilities is essential.
- Setting up a smooth collaboration between Primary Care and long term care facilities is essential to provide a higher quality of palliative care.
- Coordination of palliative care should be at long-term care facilities / Primary Care level.
- Better integration of palliative care in health care equals changes in: education and training, accessibility and (finance) structures, and investment in innovative research.

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