



Recent Advances in Pediatric Palliative Home Care

Guest Editor:

Dr. Anthony Herbert

1. Paediatric Palliative Care
Service, Children's Health
Queensland Hospital and Health
Service, Queensland Children's
Hospital, South Brisbane, QLD
4101, Australia
2. Centre for Children's Health
Research, Queensland University
of Technology, South Brisbane,
QLD 4101, Australia

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Message from the Guest Editor

Children and adolescents with life-limiting diseases suffer from various symptoms at the end of their lives, which can impact quality of life and cause suffering. Symptoms that can cause distress, including pain, agitation, anxiety, fatigue, seizures, and various gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., feed intolerance, anorexia, nausea, and vomiting). In recent years, there has been increasing capacity to support children receiving palliative care at home. Palliative care at home has a number of benefits, including less disruption to family life, freedom from the hospital environment, freedom to have visitors at any time, and the child's own preferences, including food and parental choice. One benefit of being at home includes the parents' ability to be more particular about the timing of analgesia; however, it can be difficult to provide nursing care and access to clinical staff for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at home. In this context there can be benefits of being cared for in a tertiary children's hospital, a hospital close to home, or a children's hospice. Elements of home life can still be integrated into both hospital and hospice settings.

