

HOME HOSPIC DUHA, O.P.S.

CENTER OF HOME HOSPICE CARE

COMPANY GOALS AND SERVICES PROVIDED

BASIC INFORMATION

The aim is to ensure the provision of home hospice care services to oncologically ill patients, in the final phase of life, where medical science is unable to provide cure. Patients are guaranteed not to suffer unbearable physical pain and will be able to spend the rest of their lives at home among their closest ones. The care will ensure a relatively normal way of life, according to the degree of complications caused by the illness. Nurses commute to the patient directly to their home environment. To deal with the complications associated with the illness, they use health and compensation aids. Part of the care is also the versatile family support - even after the patient's death (care for the survivors).

Before the home hospice care, these dying patients spent their last lifetime exclusively at LDN facilities or in the hospital room. No one at this time asked questions about the needs of the patient and his family that concerned social or psychological issues. No one has questioned whether the dying can still live a normal life, what are their last wishes and unresolved life issues. Without exaggeration it can be said that the dying were seen as dead. After the patient's death, no one asked questions about how the survivors should cope with their loss and re-enter the normal course of life. All these questions started in the Královéhradecký Region newly addressed to the Center of Home Hospice Care, which started to run the Home Hospice Duha (founded in 2009). The region has brought a new look at the dying and new type of health and social care for all related target groups.

Target groups

- Terminally and pre-terminally ill (predominantly oncological)
- Carers
- Persons survivors
- Long-term carers
- Persons chronically ill



The Center of Home Hospice Care takes care of the survivors through their professional social counseling. Care mostly involves individual visits and interviews with a patient at home or at the Center.

Implementation and benefits of the service

Despite many political proclamations that promised change, home hospice care remains a service which is not covered by public health insurance. Every home hospice is dependent on gifts, grants and subsidies. Home Hospice Duha began its existence by searching for new sponsors and organizing events that would bring financial benefits for the hospice (concerts, lectures, participation in advent markets with handicraft products, etc.). It is currently an organization whose budget for 2019 was set at CZK 6,967,500 (approximately € 272,380). During the years 2009 - 2016, the Center staff were able to commute to patients in about 95 municipalities and towns. After the branch office in Vrchlabí was opened in 2016, this number increased to 150 municipalities.

Since the progression of a remotely similar illness is different for each patient, and because each patient has different needs, it is very difficult, or even excluded, to set evaluation criteria to establish a successful home hospice model. However, the demand for the Center's services can be assessed, which increases continuously with each year. Because dying is naturally a "negative social theme", it is also possible to consider changing public attitudes towards dying patients from the increasing interest in the Center's services. The existence of a home hospice was, in the first years, particularly perceived by the neighborhood as having a relatively negative impact on the subject of death. Founders have passed criticism and even anonymous threats.

Collaboration with other institutions

In addition to the provision of home hospice care, the main purpose of spreading awareness about this type of care and education is both the laic and the professional public. Home hospice Duha strived to become a member of the Association of Hospice Palliative Care Providers, which it managed in the year 2010. This enabled it to quickly establish contacts with already existing bed-care hospices and to co-operate in the promotion of some legislative changes at the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic. Some of the Association's proposals were actually approved.



Duha is in constant contact with other hospices. Many of them were created in recent years, and some of them came to the Center of Home Hospice Care to get inspiration. During these meetings at the Center, Duha handed over its know-how to them. Thanks to that these new home hospices could have been created faster and easier, avoiding some mistakes Duha made before. The cooperation of Duha is also reinforced by organizing an annual meeting of home hospices and a meeting of home hospice directors.

In the past two years, Duha has also provided this know-how in Slovakia where a similar home hospices have been created. Many times, the founder of Duha - Jana Sieberová was invited. Last year, an article about Duha in the Vienna Free Letters was also published.

As already mentioned, home hospice care is not covered by health insurance companies. Financially, the Center mainly started to support the municipalities where the Center operates. The activities of the hospice are also supported by the Hradec Králové Region, with which Duha has also cooperated several times at several events which aimed at supporting hospice care in the region. Also, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hradec Králové has become a supporter and sponsor. The Center is also sponsored by several larger companies and a number of small regular and irregular sponsors.

