World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2017 – Key Messages

Universal Health Coverage and Palliative Care – Don't leave those suffering behind

COUNT

In 42% of the world's countries there is ZERO availability of palliative care.

- Measure what matters. Are health services accessible, of sufficient quality and affordable for all?
- What gets measured gets done! Measure palliative care coverage as part of UHC
- We must hold our leaders, our health systems and ourselves to account to care for those living with life-limiting illness
- Don't wait for political action: demand it. We must hold leaders accountable for leaving no one with life-limiting illness behind!
- In only 20 countries is palliative care well integrated into the health care system
- 40 million people need palliative care annually including 20 million at the end of life
- Only 14% of the need for palliative care is being met at the end of life, less than 10% overall
- 78% live in low and middle income countries.

CARE

It isn't Universal Health Coverage without universal access to palliative care

- Universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need
- Palliative care is an essential, defining part of Universal Health Coverage
- Universal Health Coverage, including palliative care, is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
- UHC means everyone must be able to access the health services they need, including palliative care, without being forced into financial hardship
- Every person deserves access to quality, affordable health services, including palliative care
- UHC is driven by equity and human rights. We must bring UHC including palliative care to those who need it most.

- People who need palliative care have some of the greatest healthcare needs. They must be included in UHC.

COST

Palliative care can reduce the financial burden on households driven by serious chronic and life-limiting illness.

- No one should face destitution and poverty when they get sick
- Financial risk occurs through paying for costly treatment not covered by national health systems
- Households with people with life-limiting illness may face high costs and potential financial hardship for futile treatments
- Loss of income by the person who is ill or their carers can lead to financial risk
- Costly travel when treatment and care services are situated far from home increases financial risk to people with serious illness and their families
- In most parts of the world, hospice and palliative care organisations provide free services to the people and families accessing care
- Palliative care must be included in all UHC schemes.

Resources

- WHPCA report: UHC and Palliative Care: Do not leave those suffering behind! http://bit.ly/2fTgbLk http://www.thewhpca.org/resources/item/uhc-and-palliativecare/
- WHPCA report: Palliative care and the global goal for health. http://bit.ly/2h6dB5O
- Rob Yates presentation: It is not #UHC without palliative care! http://bit.ly/2htxcgH
- Imagine: UHC and palliative care video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0xy1jMwDBg