

Abstract

This rigorous thesis pursues evolution of specialized palliative care and looks at the same time into problems of contemporary legislation and current legal frame of for care in mobile hospices in the Czech Republic. It thus builds on my previous master thesis on euthanasia, which discussed the Act on dignified death submitted to parliamentary debate by Zlatuška, M.P. (ANO) on May 27, 2016. Euthanasia is often perceived as an alternative to palliative care.

There are several different forms of palliative care – hospice palliative care, special beds/stations for palliative care in hospitals and care in a mobile hospice.

The analytical part of the thesis will include analysis of palliative and hospice care issues based on existing documents and secondary analyses. Methodologically, qualitative approach based on semi-structural interviews with relevant actors from political as well as healthcare spheres will be used. Political actors will be represented by the Ministry of Health and health insurance companies. Attention in the healthcare sphere will be focused on providers of palliative care and founders of hospice facilities and mobile hospice care facilities. Under certain conditions, the latter ones can, however, become also political actors. Part of the qualitative research will be analysis of expert mass media covering a certain time period.

The main problem in providing palliative care is its unsatisfactory frame and definition in existing legislation. The Thesis investigates “state-of-the-art” of the mobile palliative care in public policy in the Czech Republic. Modern society is mostly oriented on success achievements in its activities and learned to displace dying and death in the out-of-home institutions. It seems that development of palliative care and growing awareness of its principles and possibilities may now society contribute to progress in another direction, too.

Based on interviews with experts, the Thesis identifies the main problems and barriers in the field of palliative care of the healthcare system.