

This dissertation deals with the process of dying in homes for senior citizens and the options of solving these problems by using methods of palliative care in the institutions. The author uses the statistical data concerning elderly people in the Czech Republic gathered from the opinion poll in 2004 which showed that it is necessary to improve significantly the quality of care for dying senior citizens in institutional care. Firstly, this dissertation describes in detail social services provided in homes for senior citizens and the situation of the elderly people living there. It also points out the difficulties and problems that could be found in care homes. Next part of this work focuses on the quality of life of dying senior citizens, their needs and their attitude to their own death and dying – from these pieces of information it is possible to deduce the principles and instruments of quality care. The other part of this work deals with the particular features of the illnesses of elderly people and how they influence providing of palliative care. Further it describes the main indicators of good care, its character and priorities. This part also contains pros and cons of palliative care in homes for senior citizens and outlines possible solutions to these problems. The dissertation also contains the interpretation of the data from a short inquiry whose aim was to find out to what extent some characteristics of palliative care are present in the care for the terminally-ill and dying elderly people in care homes.