Abstract

In my thesis I focus on integration of the palliative care in the retirement home describing it through the practical cooperation of two organisations - The Homecoming and Domov Sue Ryder.

In the theoretical part I deal with the term of palliative care first, and I also introduce the specifications of the geriatric palliative care. In the subsequent part I describe the residential institutions of social care and professions that are employed in them, as well as, the multi-disciplinary team offering specialised palliative care. I also present the term of shared care existing abroad together with the foreign models of palliative care integration in the retirement homes already used in Austria and Great Britain. The conclusion of the theoretical part explores the actual project of palliative care integration called that is currently taking place in the Czech Republic.

In the practical part I offer the description of an actual cooperation, for which I used the notes put down by the employees of The Homecoming after each visit; interviews with the employees of the Sur Ryder home and The Homecoming; a so-called timeline created for each shared care patient; experience from the meetings; my own experience from the meetings and educational activities; formal and informal discussions; guidelines and organisational instructions formulated during the course of the cooperation; notes from the focus groups. Experience of the pilot project shows that integration of the palliative care into the in the retirement homes is a long-term process requiring time and sufficient preparation. The preparation includes clarification of the priorities and goals of the integration; education and training for all the employees of the retirement home; definition of the rules of communication and of mechanisms between the organisations. The integration process also requires a stable organisation that is secured both financially and personnel-wise in order to warrant that the home will continue in the initiated integration.