

Abstract (in English):

The topic of the master thesis „Palliative care in hospitals“ focuses on an area that is unknown not only to the general public but to health professionals as well. The care for the dying is not an attractive and sought subject. Nevertheless, it can concern everyone directly or indirectly through family and friends that are close and dear.

In the past recent years palliative care in the Czech Republic has advanced. The principles are being applied by some providers of health and social care. In medical establishments palliative care is still not automatically provided even though hospitals in the Czech Republic are a place where most deaths occur. The theoretical part clarifies, describes and introduces palliative care, defines its content and principles from the social and logistic aspect. It focuses on ways to apply palliative care in hospitals, on the conditions of its integration into medical establishments, organizational forms and describes experiences in this field from abroad.

Based on the fundamentals of quality research the practical part of the thesis maps the conditions in which patients spend their last days in a specific hospital from the point of view of the medical personnel.

The main outcome of this thesis is the ambiguous statement that hospitals lack palliative care. It is not provided to patients, enough support is not provided to their families and friends and this absence is negatively perceived by the personnel.

The conclusions from the practical part are an impulse to implement organization changes in medical establishments. Recommendations include the establishing of a separate inpatient department where professional palliative care will be provided by skilled personnel.