



# **European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care**



**Foyle Hospice  
61 Culmore Road  
BT48 8JE**

**Annually from September to November**



# European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care



## Course Overview

This eight week, intensive, distance learning multi-professional programme is aimed at those working in clinical practice, who are new to specialist palliative care, or who regularly look after people who have palliative care needs. The course is based in Foyle Hospice, Derry.

Attendance is only required at the introductory evening session and the final assessment day at the Foyle Hospice Day Therapy Centre.

The overall aim of the course is to enable participants to:

- Deepen their understanding of the principles and practice of palliative care.
- Critically evaluate their role in promoting holistic patient and family centred care.
- Integrate up-to-date evidence based palliative care within daily practice.

## Entry Requirements

In order to undertake the course applicants must be in possession of a relevant professional healthcare qualification and be working in a suitable practice setting, having direct contact with patients requiring a palliative approach to care.

The course is divided into five sections, each covering different aspects of essential palliative care.

- **Managing Patients with Pain**
- **Palliative Care and the Gastrointestinal System**
- **Breaking Bad News and Ethical Issues**
- **Emergencies in Palliative Care, and Palliative Care in Non-malignant Disease**
- **The Last 48 Hours of Life: Practical Issues and Bereavement**



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It is estimated that each section will require approximately 10 hours of work to complete, including watching the DVD programme, reading the course handbook, and reviewing the questions at the end of each section.

Total study time required to complete the course is approximately 80 hours.

## Support During Your Studies

On attendance at the introductory evening, candidates will be assigned a facilitator. The facilitators are experienced staff working in specialist palliative care at the Foyle Hospice or in the community / hospital setting. Candidates can contact their facilitator during the course by phone and email for support and advice as required within reason.

## Assessment

Learning will be assessed at four levels:

- **Portfolio (Case Study):** Candidates complete a 2,000 word portfolio of a patient with palliative care needs, demonstrating critical reading evidence, personal and professional reflection about the management of such a patient. Support from the facilitator is given to assist the candidates with this.
- **Practical (Oral):** There will be a short practical (oral) assessment by a Doctor and Nurse, looking at the knowledge and skills developed during the course.
- **Written:** The one hour written assessment will comprise of multiple choice questions of a true/false nature.
- **Key Competency:** A short section on calculating common opioid conversions.

**On successful completion of the course assessments, candidates will be awarded 'The European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care'.**

- A detailed breakdown of their marks
- CPD Credits for this course are accepted by the Royal College of Physicians
- The course was previously PGEA accredited for 20 hours and is well designed to form part of a GP's Personal Development Plan
- APL Credits at Diploma Level II may be applied for from:  
The University of Surrey  
The University of Ulster



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## Course Fees / Funding

The course fee for the 8 week programme, to include all learning materials, is **£450**.

Details of possible funding agencies:

- Help the Hospices ([www.helpthehospices.org.uk](http://www.helpthehospices.org.uk)) (Apply at least 6 weeks before course commences).
- Irish Hospice Foundation ([www.hospice.foundation.ie](http://www.hospice.foundation.ie))
- Irish Cancer Society ([www.cancer.ie](http://www.cancer.ie))
- Macmillan Cancer Relief ([www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk))

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

**FOYLE HOSPICE RUNS THIS COURSE ONCE A YEAR  
ONLY SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER**

**For further information/enquiries regarding the course contact:**

**Michelle Hannaway  
Medical Secretary  
Foyle Hospice  
Tel: (028) 71 351010**

## **For application forms contact:**

Foyle Hospice  
Monday – Friday (9am – 5pm)  
Tel: (028) 71 351010

Reg. Charity No. XN 76407