

**Preferred presentation type:**

- oral presentation  
 poster presentation

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**Does Advance Care Planning in End of Life Care in Limburg\* increase experienced quality of care, death and dying and decrease unnecessary health care usage?**

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**Background:**

In Limburg\*, in May 2015 a new advance care planning (ACP) pathway will be implemented into four primary care facilities and four ambulatory care wards of Orbis Medical Center (425 beds). Its aim is the early identification of (oncological and chronically ill) patients who will probably die within one year, discuss patients in a multidisciplinary setting, and to provide them with a pro-active care plan. This should result into higher experienced quality of care, of death and dying and into less unnecessary health care usage.

**Aim:**

To gain insight into both the effects and the (implementation) process, by measuring several indicators: place of preferred death, quality of death and dying, experiences with care, burden of care as experienced by spouses, profiles of health care consumption (admissions, crisis situations, replacements, etc.). Additionally, we will survey facilitators and barriers to implementing the pathway.

**Methods:**

The pathway will continuously be evaluated during the next 2,5 years. Some indicators will be measured in both the intervention group and a control-group; other are only measured cross-sectionally. *Clinical assessment* of patients will be done during the intake ( physical, cognitive, spiritual and other problems). We will conduct *semi-structured interviews* with health care professionals and spouses. We will use patient data from physician and hospital *information systems* to reconstruct health care usage.

**Results:**

We expect to include 250 patients yearly. Preliminary results can be presented in Sep 2015.

**Discussion:**

Regarding the *study*, we would like to discuss our design, chosen indicators, questionnaires, and data collection methods. Regarding the *pathway*, we would like to reflect on the intake and identification assessment, the follow-up, and the multidisciplinary interaction.

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\* Province in the South East of The Netherlands