

PALLIANET

Decision Support and Knowledge driven Collaborative practices in Palliative Care

The **PALLIANET** project focuses on the improvement of collaborative practices in Palliative Care networks. It aims at setting up an Information and Communication system that will improve communication and real time access to information, thus enabling a Palliative Care Team to support allied professional care providers.

Objectives of the project

Palliative care is intrinsically multidisciplinary and can only be achieved through the development of collaborative practices in city-hospital networks consisting of:

- A palliative care coordination team generally composed of a specialist medical doctor, a nurse, a psychologist and a secretary.
- The city professionals: independents generalist and specialist doctors, nurses, other homecare actors such as social care actors, voluntary workers, home-helpers,...

“The system will enable a Palliative Care Team to support allied professional care providers both medical practitioners and non-medical professionals”

PALLIANET aims at improving collaborative practices in Palliative Care networks, in particular communications and real time access to information for healthcare professionals involved in these networks, in order to improve the quality of care services. The system will enable a Palliative Care Team to support allied professional care providers, both medical practitioners and non-medical professionals in:

- Better understanding the patient’s context (clinical, psychological and social dimensions),
- Making relevant decisions in a complex and unusual context.

Project Description

PALLIANET strategic objective is to support knowledge driven collaborative practices in order to minimise risks in the context of palliative care. The project aims at conceiving an advanced solution supporting the needs of city professionals by combining a Community & Knowledge Management service, Advanced human-computer interaction features that makes access for caregivers easy and natural, and Coordination Facilities that would enable to maintain the quality and relevance of knowledge and in particular to analyse the way in which patients cases have been handled in order to measure the risks associated to palliative care; assess their costs; make explicit new Best Practices that can be disseminated through “Best Practice Guides” and possibly revise the semantics to improve knowledge accessibility.

By support Health Professionals in implementing knowledge driven collaborative practice and providing them with relevant Knowledge and Advice, **PALLIANET** is perfectly in line with the IST priority objective of supporting health professionals in taking promptly the best possible decision for prevention, diagnosis and treatment Pilot Actions will be conducted in France and UK to find balance between the technology and user perspectives:

- The palliative care team at Guys’ and St Thomas’ Hospital provides the context of an integrated service offered by hospital staff both in and out of the hospital;

Scenario

Mrs Ames has been diagnosed with cancer and is referred by her General Practitioner to the palliative care team at Guy’s & St Thomas Hospital. The team receives the electronic referral and makes an appointment with the patient using the **PALLIANET** solution. The relevant data is downloaded to the tablet PC of the palliative care member who will be visiting Mrs Ames. Current medical protocols and guidelines for Mrs Ames medical condition are already synchronised and stored locally along with contact details of all relevant agencies that may be involved in Mrs Ames care. Many of the initial communications with agencies take place “real-time” during attendance, ensuring Mrs Ames will receive the care and support she needs in a timely manner.



- The Nepale network provides the context of a light palliative care team coordinating the activity of city care providers in delivering palliative care in a geographic area.

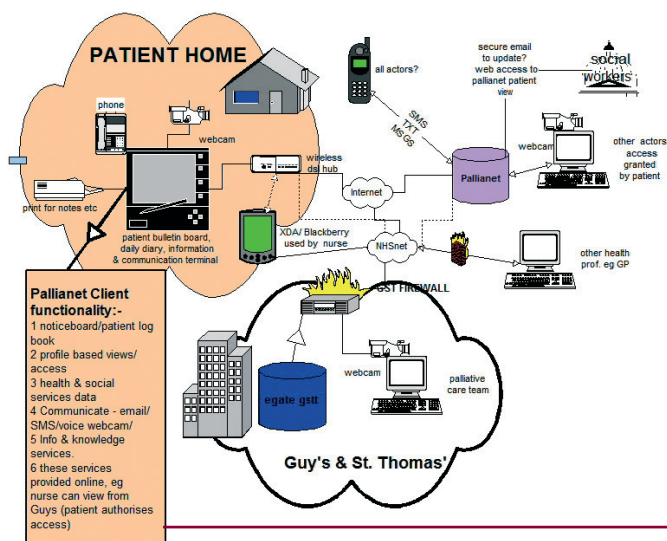
Expected Results & Impacts

Outputs of the **PALLIANET** Project will be:

- **Innovative Technologies** for ontology based and knowledge driven collaborative practices, permitting to healthcare professionals to benefit from advice based on best practices, case discussions and knowledge of care delivery context. In particular, innovations concern:
 - The Community & Knowledge Management service implementing decision support tools that permit to produce Best Practices, Clinical protocols and guidelines. The linking of these best practices with patient record will bring a great added-value support to health professionals permitting them to access guidelines relevant to a patient case.
 - The Best Practices/Knowledge Generator using combined Mining of Text (emails, chats, forums) and Data (patient cases) to identify best practise.
- A **Software Solution** targeting Palliative Care Networks.

The impacts expected from **PALLIANET** in relation to user needs are:

- Reduction of time from referral by a General Practitioner to the first assessment visit to the patient
- Reduction of time spent (and cost) by members of the palliative care team to prepare the 1st visit
- Drastic reduction of the number of desirable interventions of agencies which cannot take place after the 1st assessment visit due to lack of communication
- Elimination of communication disruptions between care givers intervening at patient's home
- Reduction of the percentage of difficulties encountered by care givers that need the intervention of members of the palliative care team
- Reduction of time needed to prepare a case study
- Reduction of costs associated to the implementation of clinical guidelines/protocols.



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- E-Net Solutions S.A. (GR)
- Language & Computing Nv (BE)
- Sword Technology S.A. (LU)
- Guys' and St Thomas' Hospital - Palliative Care department (UK)
- Nepale Palliative Care network (FR)

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Best Practices