

## In Touch



# End of life care - new opportunities

## Expanding services without expanding costs

End of Life care now applies to ALL conditions that would render a person likely to live less than twelve months. The Government's new End of Life Care strategy places requirements for PCT's and SHA's to identify patients in the twelve months remaining life category and provide tailored personal care with 24 hour access to services, preferably in the community.

The strategy actively encourages hospices to seize the opportunity to secure further funding for its core work, expand its hours and services, extend its influence over local strategy and provide better community services and more integrated links with other agencies.

Crosscare allows services to be expanded and funding to be increased, but without a comparable increase in costs.

## Independent, but need to connect?

The strategy expects PCT's to work in partnership with other local organisations

to build this community network of care. Partners in this network may include GP's, PCT community nursing services, hospital trusts, Macmillan teams, Marie Curie, local nursing homes and social services, amongst others.

Hospices are the logical and best placed organisation to implement many of the new services, but other partners may take them over should hospices not react to the strategy quickly enough, or be able to prove their ability to deliver the results. The Government is investing almost £300m in additional funds up to the end of 2010 in order to ensure that people approaching end of life get the right levels of care.

Crosscare allows the hospice to remain independent; it's NHS accreditations and participation in the NHS National Programme for IT allow it to connect to other organisations, but on the hospices' terms, when it suits the hospice, rather than having to comply 100% with NHS standards from the outset.

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## Gaining efficiencies; report, analyse, improve

The strategy gives the hospice the opportunity to secure further funding for its core work, expand its hours and services, extend its influence over local strategy and provide better community services and more integrated links with other agencies.

In order to do this hospices will need to deliver extended nursing hours in the community, enable team working across shifts, whilst providing a rapid response to quickly changing patient needs in a number of different locations, with the aim of preventing unnecessary and unwanted hospital admissions. It will also have to hold a more expansive data set that cannot sensibly be done on a manual basis.

Crosscare allows hospices to report accurately on their activity, including the cost of each activity, gather data once and share it with other partners, hold electronic care plans and make them available to appropriate staff, and provide full electronic records out in the community. It is NHS compliant to allow the sharing of data with other agencies, and provides the significant efficiencies to be expected of a paperless environment that will allow hospices to expand their services and revenues without expanding their cost base.

## For more information

### About Advanced Health & Care

Advanced Health & Care is a leading supplier of IT management systems for urgent & unplanned care, homecare, residential care, hospices, mobile information for community carers and back-office management systems for NHS trusts, local authorities and care providers.

Working with partners in the NHS, local government and the private sector, Advanced Health & Care is delivering IT solutions in support of safe, efficient care delivery with integrated management information. Advanced's unique proposition is its range of integrated care solutions offering visibility of information for both the commissioner and care provider.

The Advanced Health & Care suite of products includes: Adastral, iNurse, Crosscare, eFinancials Smart Business Suite, Saturn & StaffPlan.

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### Legal information

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