



Association for  
Palliative Medicine

# Article of the Month

May 2016

## [Training general practitioners contributes to the identification of palliative patients and to multidimensional care provision: secondary outcomes of an RCT](#)

Bregje Thoosen, Stefanie H M Gerritzen, Kris C P Vissers, Stans Verhagen, Chris van Weel, Marieke Groot and Yvonne Engels  
– BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care

Training GPs to recognise palliative patients a RCT – a very helpful paper demonstrating the use of a training program for GPs ( in Holland) that had a longer lasting effect over 15 months to keep them aware of likely patients who would be suitable for the GSF equivalent in the UK.

[Click here](#) to view the full article

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## [Differences in out-of-pocket costs of healthcare in the last year of life of older people in 13 European countries](#)

Yolanda WH Penders, Judith Rietjens, Gwenda Albers, Simone Croezen, Lieve Van den Block  
– *Palliative Medicine Journal*

A study looking at the differences in out of pocket expenses in the last year of life – useful to compare across Europe – the UK does well as the NHS meets this but there are lots of informal and hidden costs which are made explicit and a reminder of the expenses incurred not simply health related.

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## [Update on Prevalence of Pain in Patients with Cancer: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#)

Marieke H.J. van den Beuken-van Everdingen, MD, PhD, Laura M.J. Hochstenbach, MSc, Bert E.A.J. Joosten, PhD, Vivianne C.G. Tjan-Heijnen, MD, PhD, Daisy J.A. Janssen, MD, PhD  
– *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*

An updated meta-analysis and review of cancer pain – does not add new knowledge but for educational purposes and training it is a useful reminder that it is still significantly under treated outside of the expert area – reaffirmed by recent voices data on lack of pain relief with patients dying at home.

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*Prepared by Ollie Minton, on behalf of the APM Science Committee*