Training general practitioners contributes to the identification of palliative patients and to multidimensional care provision: secondary outcomes of an RCT
Bregje Thoonsen, 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

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.

Click here to view the full article

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.

Click here to view the full article

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