

Palliative Care and Universal Health Coverage: Don't Leave those Suffering Behind

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the hospice, as well as the comfort and solace of his loved ones around him [6].

Hospice care does not aim to either postpone or hasten death. It merely helps the patient to live care free in a secure environment, giving optimum care and letting nature have its way. To commemorate the importance of the field of palliative care, every year, 14th October is celebrated as the world palliative care. Despite being acknowledged all over the world, palliative care is a field that still needs lots of support- financial as well as social- and acceptance by the population particularly in India

One of the major drawbacks for palliative and hospice care is many insurance policies do not cover the expenses of the hospices/palliative care providers. This is still on a developing basis in countries like India, which would make this more patient friendly once proper measures are to reduce the financial burden on the patients and their families. Moreover doctors hesitate to refer patients to hospices even if they need them, for the very reason that patients might sue them if they manage to survive for more than 6 months under the hospice care, even if the patient and their relatives are ready to discontinue treatments in case of end stage terminal diseases. Besides this, lack of