

1 **Supplementary information**

2 **Coding of palliative patients**

3 **Palliative code**

4 Patients were coded as palliative if they had any of the below palliative codes applied to their record
5 at any time, during any contact, within the entire study period.

6 ZV57C [V]Palliative care

7 1Z0.. Terminal illness

8 8BA2. Terminal Care

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10 **Subcutaneous medication**

11 Patients were also coded as palliative if they had been prescribed an appropriate subcutaneous
12 medication at a contact within the 30 days prior to death.

13 This was determined via the hand searching of electronically recorded prescriptions, where the
14 prescription specified subcutaneous administration or 'via a syringe driver' of any of the following
15 medications as defined in the British National Formulary as being suitable for continuous
16 subcutaneous infusion in palliative care.

17 Hyoscine hydrobromide Hyoscine butylbromide

18 Glycopyrronium bromide Haloperidol

19 Levomepromazine Midazolam

20 Cyclizine Metoclopramide

21 Octreotide Morphine

22 Diamorphine hydrochloride.

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24 **Hospice referral**

25 Patients were also coded as palliative if they had been admitted to a hospice as a result of a contact
26 in the 30days prior to death.

27 This was therefore defined as any patients who had 'admission to hospice' as the documented
28 contact outcome

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32 **Tables**

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34 **Table 1: most commonly assigned clinical codes (>1%) to contacts in 30d prior to death**

| Clinical Code (grouped) | Frequency | % of all codes assigned. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Palliative | 957 | 27.27% |
| Advice/reassurance | 307 | 8.75% |
| Medication request/prescribed | 248 | 7.07% |
| LRTI | 194 | 5.53% |
| UTI | 148 | 4.22% |
| SOB | 95 | 2.71% |
| N&V | 79 | 2.25% |
| Procedure | 73 | 2.08% |
| Other Respiratory illness or symptom | 73 | 2.08% |
| Catheter care | 66 | 1.88% |
| Confusion/reduced GCS | 55 | 1.57% |
| Pain | 53 | 1.51% |
| Abdominal Pain | 47 | 1.34% |
| Other | 47 | 1.34% |
| Condition or symptom NOS | 46 | 1.31% |
| Abnormal bloods | 45 | 1.28% |
| Wound care | 44 | 1.25% |
| Collapse or Fall | 39 | 1.11% |
| Emergency treatment | 36 | 1.03% |
| Agitation | 35 | 1.00% |
| Cancer | 35 | 1.00% |

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47 **Table 2: Most commonly assigned clinical codes (>1%) to contacts alive at 30 days after OOH**
 48 **contact**

| Clinical code (grouped) | Frequency | % of all codes assigned |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| ENT symptom or condition | 10507 | 13.49% |
| UTI | 7305 | 6.00% |
| MSK disease | 6443 | 5.30% |
| URTI | 5909 | 4.86% |
| Medication request/prescribed | 5141 | 4.23% |
| Advice/reassurance | 4866 | 4.00% |
| Abdominal pain | 4845 | 3.98% |
| Viral illness | 4658 | 3.83% |
| Other respiratory symptoms or illness | 4324 | 3.55% |
| Diagnosis not made | 3733 | 3.07% |
| Skin infection | 3470 | 2.85% |
| LRTI | 3260 | 2.68% |
| Skin condition | 3043 | 2.50% |
| Wound care | 2708 | 2.23% |
| Gastroenteritis | 2634 | 2.16% |
| Fever | 2564 | 2.11% |
| Failed encounter/DNA | 2405 | 1.98% |
| Mental health symptom/condition | 2278 | 1.87% |
| N&V | 2271 | 1.87% |
| Neurological condition | 2158 | 1.77% |
| Accidental injury | 2105 | 1.73% |
| GI disease or symptom | 1995 | 1.64% |
| Catheter care | 1950 | 1.60% |
| Eye problem | 1876 | 1.54% |
| Oral disease | 1752 | 1.44% |
| Urological disorder | 1673 | 1.38% |
| Pregnancy, antenatal care or pregnancy complication | 1376 | 1.13% |
| Diarrhoea | 1314 | 1.08% |
| Chest pain/IHD | 1281 | 1.05% |

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56 **Table 3: Clinical codes most commonly assigned to contacts with patients not documented as**
57 **palliative (codes accounting for >1% of all codes assigned.)**

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| Clinical code (grouped) | Frequency | % of all codes |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Advice | 191 | 10.82% |
| LRTI | 148 | 8.39% |
| UTI | 121 | 6.86% |
| Medication request/prescribed | 110 | 6.23% |
| SOB | 74 | 4.19% |
| N&V | 48 | 2.72% |
| Pain | 39 | 2.21% |
| Catheter care | 38 | 2.15% |
| Abdominal Pain | 37 | 2.10% |
| Procedure | 37 | 2.10% |
| Confusion | 36 | 2.04% |
| Abnormal bloods | 35 | 1.98% |
| Respiratory illness | 32 | 1.81% |
| MSK disease | 32 | 1.81% |
| Other | 31 | 1.76% |
| Wound care | 29 | 1.64% |
| Ill defined condition | 27 | 1.53% |
| COPD | 26 | 1.47% |
| Emergency treatment | 25 | 1.42% |
| Fall | 24 | 1.36% |
| Chest pain | 22 | 1.25% |
| CVA | 22 | 1.25% |
| Failed encounter | 21 | 1.19% |
| Referral | 20 | 1.13% |
| Dehydration | 19 | 1.08% |
| Skin infection | 19 | 1.08% |
| Unwell | 18 | 1.02% |
| Sepsis | 18 | 1.02% |
| GI bleed | 18 | 1.02% |

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64 **Table 4: Clinical codes (grouped) most commonly assigned to contacts with patients coded as**
65 **palliative (i.e. codes accounting for >1% of all codes assigned.)**

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| Documented as palliative | | |
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| Clinical code (grouped) | Frequency | % of all codes assigned |
| Palliative | 1134 | 54.15% |
| Medication request/prescribed | 155 | 7.40% |
| Advice | 133 | 6.35% |
| LRTI | 59 | 2.82% |
| N&V | 42 | 2.01% |
| Catheter care | 34 | 1.62% |
| Cancer | 33 | 1.58% |
| UTI | 31 | 1.48% |
| Agitation | 29 | 1.38% |
| Procedure | 29 | 1.38% |
| SOB | 24 | 1.15% |

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