

## NEWS

# GPs are invited to lead new public health approach to end of life care

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GPs in clinical commissioning groups have been invited to lead a new public health approach to end of life care in England.

On 10 September, Public Health England and the National Council for Palliative Care—an umbrella charity for workers involved in palliative, end of life, and hospice care—opened applications to be one of six “pathfinder communities” to pioneer this new approach. Implementing the newly launched *Dying Well Community Charter*,<sup>1</sup> the pathfinders will receive support to help their local community work together to improve the response to people who are dying and those who have been bereaved.

The new document was updated from a charter on what makes a good death, produced in 2010 by the former NHS North East Strategic Health Authority. The new version has incorporated the five priorities for care that came from the Leadership Alliance for the Care of Dying People’s recommendations, as well as the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Nursing’s 2011 *End of Life Care Patient Charter*.<sup>2</sup>

Applications, which must be submitted by 10 October, are sought from organisations (or collaborations of organisations) including clinical commissioning groups, local authorities, health and wellbeing boards, and NHS or voluntary sector

providers of health and social care. The organisations that apply will have to provide evidence or confirmation of collaborating with a broad range of other organisations across sectors in their area.

The *Dying Well Charter* has been released in conjunction with the *Public Health Approaches to End of Life Care Toolkit*, produced by Allan Kellehear and Alik Karapliagkou at Middlesex University, London, as a resource for pathfinders to use to complement the charter.

Claire Henry, chief executive of the National Council for Palliative Care, said, “We need a public health approach to end of life care, with a much greater focus on compassionate care and support. Together, the charter and toolkit have the potential to improve end of life care for everyone through the commitment of pathfinder charter communities.”

- 1 National Council for Palliative Care. The dying well community charter. 2014. [www.npc.org.uk/sites/default/files/Dying\\_Well\\_Community\\_Charter.pdf](http://www.npc.org.uk/sites/default/files/Dying_Well_Community_Charter.pdf).
- 2 Royal College of General Practitioners, Royal College of Nursing. End of life care patient charter. 2011. [www.rcgp.org.uk/~media/Files/CIRC/CIRC\\_EOLCPatientCharter.ashx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/~media/Files/CIRC/CIRC_EOLCPatientCharter.ashx).

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## Figure

