



Providing a Comprehensive Palliative Care Service in Iran: a Wide Range Services by ALA Center

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For a comprehensive cancer control program, palliative care is a fundamental which is defined by world health organization as an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, including cancer. Unfortunately this area had not been delivered properly for many years in Iran. The founders of ALA charity foundation had lots of concerns about offering charity in modern manner (not only in traditional monetary methods); and this resulted to establish an institution, focusing on cancer control program and mainly Palliative care services named ALA Cancer Prevention and Control Center (MACSA). MACSA provides wide range of palliative and supportive services from diagnosis through all stages of disease and bereavement of survivors, since ۲۰۰۹. This center has registered about ۱۰,۵۰۰ patients for palliative and supportive services. The care is provided by an interdisciplinary team including: Medical and nursing care for symptom management (pain, nausea, vomiting, constipation, delirium, ...), wound Care, invasive procedures (Ascitic tap, CV-lines,) and education of patients and family; Psycho-Spiritual Care for breaking bad news, family care, individual therapy, group therapy and spiritual care; Lymphedema control; Ostomy care; Physiotherapy and occupational working; Nutritional care; Social welfare and Genetic counseling. The care is provided in rehabilitation outpatient setting for after treatment care (۷۵۰۰ patients); in inpatient setting for palliative medicine services (۱۰۰۰ patients) and in home care network for end of life care (۱۸۰۰ patients). MACSA home care network is the first and the widest one for palliative care in Iran, which has been provided about ۱۰,۰۰۰ home visits by physicians and nurses and ۱۵,۰۰۰ phone counselling by physicians in four years. Home services also include psychological, spiritual and physiotherapy services. All of documentation and registries and also scheduling and planning for home visits are performed by unique web based software which is designed by ALA center. MACSA aims to cover all of country regions for high quality palliative care and especially home care services.