

20th July 2009

**IAEM makes submission on
“Draft Quality Standards for End-of-life care in Hospitals”**

The Irish Hospice Foundation, Hospice Friendly Hospital Programme recently produced [Draft Quality Standards for End-of-life care in Hospitals](#) and has invited individuals and organisations to offer their views on the draft quality standards. IAEM has reviewed the document and is pleased to offer its views to the Hospice Friendly Hospitals programme. A copy of the completed submission is available [here](#) and the covering letter returned with the consultation proforma [here](#).

The Association strongly supports the principles enunciated in the quality standards although it has acknowledged that the severe infrastructural deficits evident in Irish Emergency Departments (EDs) and persistent ED overcrowding make it extremely difficult for EDs to deliver the kind of care they would wish to, in spite of individual healthcare professional's best intentions. With increasing numbers of ward closures nationwide, then ED overcrowding is likely to worsen significantly with further adverse effects on both patients at the end-of-life stage and ED patients in general.

The Association has also raised concerns about the practice of sending patients from long-term care institutions to EDs following deterioration in their underlying medical condition, irrespective of whether this is ultimately in the best interests of the individual patient concerned. The Association would welcome a greater public debate on the appropriateness of this approach.

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