

Media Watch... is intended as an advocacy, research and teaching tool. The report is international in scope and distribution – to colleagues who are active or have a special interest in **hospice** and **palliative care**, and in the quality of **end-of-life care** in general – to help keep them abreast of current, emerging and related issues – and, to inform discussion and encourage further inquiry.

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Ukraine: Special Supplement to Media Watch

'I'm not scared of bombs. I'm not scared of war. I became a nurse for a reason': Volunteers at the Ukraine-Poland border

UKRAINE-POLAND BORDER | *Health Debate* – 28 March 2022 – I am a Canadian emergency physician in Ukraine, just inside the border with Poland, here to treat Ukrainian refugees fleeing the full-scale invasion of their country. I'm part of a team of volunteer doctors, nurses, a paramedic, an interpreter, a psychologist and logistics personnel representing Canadian Medical Assistance Teams (CMAT), a disaster-response non-governmental organization. We are at Korczowa-Krakovets, a border crossing between Ukraine and Poland. On the Ukrainian side, the crossing is near the town of Krakovets; on the Polish side, it is the village of Korczowa. Tonight is my first 12-hour shift at Krakovets –just 12 hours ago, our clinic didn't exist at all. Installed by CMAT's day-shift team in a previously unused corner of a large white welcome tent, the clinic is the last stop for health care before refugees cross into Poland on foot. <https://bit.ly/3uKsbHt>



Resilience and perseverance under siege: providing cancer care during the invasion of Ukraine

UKRAINE | *The Lancet* – 25 March 2022 – Ukrainian oncologists are acting with extraordinary courage and valour to protect their patients and defend their homeland during a time of unprecedented crisis marked by superimposed risks of a global pandemic and violence due to the unprovoked Russian invasion. During the war, oncologists have had to deliver not only cancer care, but life-saving emergency medical interventions as their responsibilities have expanded to the care of injured military members and civilians. Ukrainian oncologists, their patients, and Ukrainian people are the heroes on the front lines of this conflict. They feel stronger because of the rallying support of cancer societies, specialty oncology centres, oncologists, and supporting health-care professionals worldwide, including in what they have deemed most important during this difficult time: the care of their patients. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3uFVT0B>

N.B. As of the writing of this Essay, there were seven operational palliative care (PC) units throughout Kyiv and 20 dedicated PC beds at the Ukrainian National Cancer Institute.



Orchestras across Europe perform Ukrainian anthem: <https://bit.ly/3DoXUSO>

War and humanitarian catastrophe in Ukraine

UKRAINE | *Pain* – 25 March 2022 – The news from Ukraine leaves us with deep concern, not only about the victims of the armed conflict, but also about the consequences of this humanitarian catastrophe for vulnerable groups such as patients with chronic pain disorders or seriously ill and dying patients. On the one hand, resources are diverted from the health system to the military, on the other hand, with the destruction of infrastructures such as hospitals and social facilities and the disruption of supply routes, access to healthcare and to aids or medicines for those affected is made more difficult or completely impossible. According to estimates ... 553,000 patients in Ukraine require palliative care (PC)...¹ The redistribution of resources affects all parties to the conflict, not only patients in Ukraine, but also in Russia, where many patients are unlikely to have access to treatment facilities or medication for pain management or PC due to sanctions and economic hardship. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3DmtYQT>

1. 'Global Data Platform to calculate Serious Health-Related Suffering and Palliative Care Need,' International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care, 2020. **Download at:** <https://bit.ly/3cKbRxI>

Russian children's hospice fears impact of Western sanctions

RUSSIA | Agence France-Presse – 25 March 2022 – With its donations falling and medicines and equipment running short, a Moscow children's hospice fears possible closure due to the impact of Western sanctions over Russia's military action in Ukraine. Since its creation in 2018, the House with the Lighthouse hospice has cared for around 1,000 children and young adults. Now as western countries have imposed increasingly tough sanctions over the last month, the foundation fears the worst over their impact on medicines and equipment. Even though medicines do not directly fall under sanctions, supplies are still affected by the ensuing logistical difficulties, blocked financial systems and rising prices for imports. Even worse, The House With Lighthouse is 80% funded by private donors, and the foundation has experienced a dramatic fall in donations since Russia sent troops into Ukraine, with many corporations and individuals slashing their outgoings as they anticipate economic turmoil. <https://bit.ly/3LmWqez>

Noted in Media Watch 25 March 2022 (Supplement #2):

- 'The value of alleviating suffering and dignifying death in war and humanitarian crises,' *The Lancet*, published online 21 March 2022. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/37Vs44t>

Noted In Media Watch 6 March 2022 (Supplement #1):

- 'Terminally ill children flee war-torn Kharkiv on makeshift medical train,' CNN (Cable News Network), published online 5 March 2022. <https://bit.ly/3txoLHM>

On the War in Ukraine

eHospice: <https://bit.ly/3iPMeyU>
<https://bit.ly/3Lb73kh> <https://bit.ly/3Jya0uY>

European Association for Palliative Care Blog: <https://bit.ly/36BL5YE>

International Children's Palliative Care Network: <https://bit.ly/3wIYUFJ>

Médecins Sans Frontières: <https://bit.ly/3CkF6mR>

United Nations Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs: <https://bit.ly/3LeYuFj>