

## Older People Dying of Cancer: Does Service Need and Service Configuration Impact on Where People Die

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### 1. Aim

Of all deaths in people  $\geq 75$ , 22% are from cancer. Information is presented on: service need for end of life care (EOLC) for older people ( $\geq 75$  years) dying of cancer, service funding and infrastructure, and place of death.

### 2. Methods

The data sources used were:

- ONS annual mortality extracts (2008/10)
- Department of Health EOLC declared spend data (2010/11)
- Care Quality Commission – number of care home beds (2012)
- Help the Hospices – hospice and specialist palliative care service data (2011)

### 3. Results

There were 67,002 cancer deaths per annum, in people  $\geq 75$  years. Highest service need was in the North West (9,408) and lowest, North East (3,945). EOLC spend reflected demand, with average spend £45,713,438 per SHA (range £19,370,000 [North East] to £90,602,715 [Yorkshire and Humber]).

Hospice beds per cancer death varied - high (South Central, South West, South East Coast) - low (North West, East of England and Yorkshire and Humber). Strategic Health Authorities with high bed availability were more likely to have a higher percentage of people  $\geq 75$  dying of cancer in these facilities. Highest South Central (14.4%), lowest North West (7.8%).

Care home bed availability (care home beds per 1,000  $\geq 75$  years) varied. It was high in North East, South East Coast and Yorkshire and Humber. Low in, London, East of England, and West Midlands. Percentage dying of cancer in care homes reflected availability - North East (18%) London (14.1%).

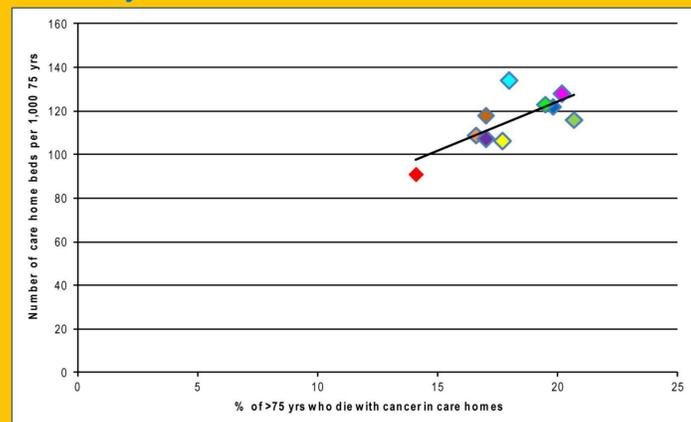
### 4. Conclusion

Despite growing  $\geq 75$  populations, place of care for old people approaching death from cancer is poorly understood. These results provide important information on the relationship between service configuration and EOLC care.

### Key for figures 1,2, 3 – Strategic Health Authorities

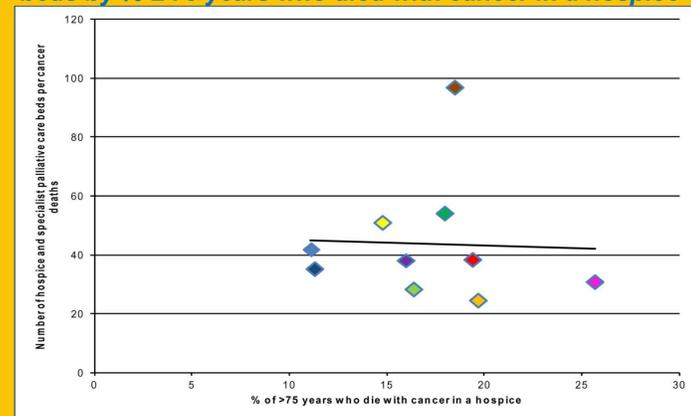
North East
South Central
East Midlands
South East Coast
London
Yorkshire and the Humber
West Midlands
East of England
South West
North West

Figure 1: Number of care home beds per 1,000  $\geq 75$  years by % of  $\geq 75$  years who died with cancer in a care home



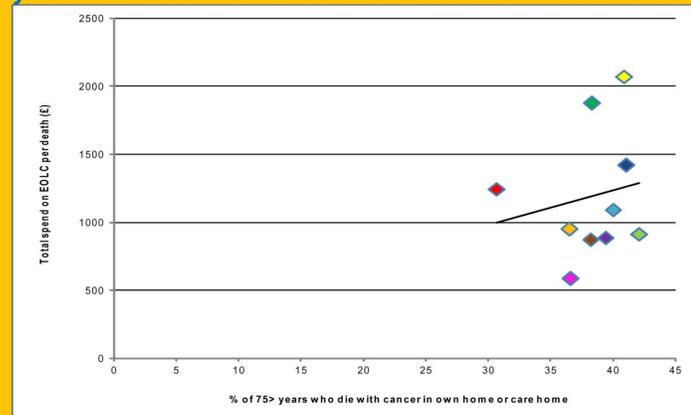
Source: ONS annual mortality extracts 2008/10, Care Quality Commission 2012.

Figure 2: Number of hospice and specialist palliative care beds by %  $\geq 75$  years who died with cancer in a hospice



Source: ONS annual mortality extracts 2008/10, Help the Hospices – hospice and specialist palliative care service data 2011

Figure 3: Total spend on EOLC per death by % of  $\geq 75$  years who died with cancer in a care home or own home



Source: ONS annual mortality extracts 2008/10, DH EOLC declared spend data 2011/12