96% of Irish GPs stated that they would value a standardised means of palliative care information transfer to the Out Of Hours (OOH) team (Kiely, 2013). This was also identified as a key priority in the 2011 Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF), Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) report, *Primary Palliative Care in Ireland*.

In 2012, the Primary Palliative Care Programme commenced a project with SOUTHDOC OOH service to develop such an information transfer process. A GP → OOH Palliative Care handover form was developed and pre-piloted by SouthDoc in 2013.

After the pre-pilot phase the form was redesigned and condensed from 3 pages to 1 page. A guidance document and information leaflet were developed to support implementation in one geographical location (Cork & Kerry) via SouthDoc.

The formal pilot began in April 2014. This poster will outline some of the results from the evaluation of that pilot project.

### Methods

- A mixed methods approach was used.
- Quantitative data from forms received between April – September 2014 was gathered.
- A series of qualitative interviews were carried out with GPs (n=7) and nurses (n=7) who used the form.
- Healthcare workers in residential centres (n=5) and members of the specialist palliative care team (n=3) in the community who hadn’t used the form also took part in interviews.
- Interviews were recorded and data analysed for key themes.

### Results

#### Quantitative Results

- 60 forms were received by SouthDoc
- 26 forms were activated (ie patient contact with SouthDoc)
- 11 People R.I.P

SouthDoc GP Interventions on those where forms were received:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication administered</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact pharmacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Life Care</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronounce R.I.P</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certify R.I.P</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Qualitative Results

- GPs found that the form aided efficient transfer of information.
- GPs & nurses identified the need for ongoing reminders about GPs using the form & for an electronic version of the form.
- Specialist Palliative care believed that the form would be useful in reassuring families, assisting busy doctors and in information transfer.
- Residential care overall felt that the form was a “brilliant idea” and would assist with communication between a nurse on duty and an on call doctor.

### Next Steps

- Report of project available from [www.hospicefoundation.ie](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie)
- Form in use in 5 locations across the country
- Links made with GPIT group & IAGPC (Irish Assoc. of General Practice Co-ops) about development of an electronic copy of the form
- Aim to roll out form in other GP OOH services across the country.

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