

# European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care (ECEPC)

The majority of healthcare professionals working in hospitals and the community look after patients with palliative care needs on a regular basis.

The European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care (ECEPC) is aimed at helping professionals consolidate and develop their palliative care confidence and expertise. The course is also designed to meet the needs of healthcare professionals new to specialist palliative care services who wish to establish a strong foundation of knowledge on which to build specialist knowledge and skills.

The course is distance learning so the only mandatory attendance at the local site is for the assessment day.

The course was first developed at Princess Alice Hospice in 2001. It is now offered at a range of sites both nationally and internationally.

The course runs twice a year and the fee is £450.

For the date of the next course please visit <http://www.pah.org.uk/training/courses/>.

Healthcare professionals who may wish to access the course include medical and nursing staff, allied health professionals (from acute, community and hospice settings) and paramedics.

## To book a place or for more information contact:

01372 461858 or 01372 461845

[europencertificate@pah.org.uk](mailto:europencertificate@pah.org.uk)



[www.pah.org.uk](http://www.pah.org.uk)



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# Information for prospective candidates

## Course resources

Candidates will receive the Course Handbook containing the core text material. Candidates will also have access to the Princess Alice Hospice virtual learning environment –[learningzone.pah.org.uk](http://learningzone.pah.org.uk) and be allocated a facilitator who will support them through their portfolio submission. The facilitators are experienced practitioners in specialist palliative care, who will be available by email or telephone.

## Assessment

Candidates undertake three different forms of assessment; a pass is required in each of the sections.

**Portfolio** - each candidate will complete a portfolio, involving critical reflection, based on a patient they have cared for with palliative care needs. It will include the effect it had on both a personal and professional level. The portfolio should be supported by literature and demonstrate how the learning will influence future care. It will be 2,500 words and is submitted two weeks prior to the assessment day.

**Written examination** - There will be a one-hour examination, which will include short true / false questions covering the principles of palliative care explored in the Course Handbook. There will be an additional four questions on common opioid dose conversions.

**Practical / verbal assessment** - The final element will be a short verbal assessment exploring the knowledge and skills developed during the course.

## How long is the course?

This is an eight-week course which can be carried out at a distance from the chosen site. Please note, however, that attendance at the local site assessment day is mandatory. It is recommended you carry out around 50-hours personal study, but this will vary depending on previous experience of palliative care.

## Where does the course run?

The course is centrally co-ordinated by Princess Alice Hospice in Esher. However, it is run at a number of different sites including Birmingham, Berkhamsted, Malta, Northern Ireland, Leeds, Aberdeen and Eire.

On successful completion of the assessments candidates will be awarded the Princess Alice Hospice European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care.

The Princess Alice Hospice is registered charity no. 1010930 and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales no. 1599796.



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