

PART B: INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL GUIDELINES FOR END-OF-LIFE CARE

1. Rationale

The *Guidance for Integrated Paediatric Palliative Care Services in New Zealand* was published in September 2012 by the Ministry of Health. The *Guidance* document identified an urgent need for development of clinical guidelines and care pathways for paediatric palliative care service delivery, and recommended that they be developed as a key priority. This project responds to that recommendation.

2. Purpose

This document provides clinical guidelines for the end-of-life care of babies, children and young people in New Zealand. The guidance is intended to be practical and accessible.

3. Target audience

These guidelines are intended to be used by secondary medical, nursing and allied health providers who care for babies, children and young people at end of life. It is not intended that the guidelines be used by primary care providers or by providers in neonatal intensive care units.

4. Target population

The target population is all babies, children and young people for whom a decision has been made to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment.

5. Methodology

Because of resource constraints, *de novo* guideline development was not possible. Instead, using a validated development protocol, guidelines for use in New Zealand have been adapted from 16 international guidelines and guidance documents. The methodology is attached as an Appendix.

6. Funding

The New Zealand Ministry of Health fully-funded this project and commissioned the Paediatric Society of New Zealand to complete it. The content of the guidelines has not been influenced by the Ministry of Health or by the Paediatric Society of New Zealand.

7. Guideline updating

It is intended that these guidelines be updated every five years.

Clinical guidelines for paediatric end-of-life care follow. These are presented as discrete, stand-alone documents.