

## Care for the Sick from beyond Poland

When an advancing, progressive illness limits perspectives for prolonging life and curative therapy, palliative care takes on a central role, the main objective of which is treatment of symptoms and improving comfort. Most whom are terminally ill prefer to stay amongst loved ones and in familiar surroundings as life draws to an end. However in some circumstances, difficult-to-treat symptoms or lack of adequate care at home makes hospice care more appropriate.

The Saint Lazarus Hospice contains 40 beds in three-person, air-conditioned rooms each with bathrooms, as well as a single room for isolation precautions. (link to image gallery) Thanks to private donations, the Hospice is able to provide high-level pharmacotherapy for treatment of symptoms by the latest guidelines according to evidence-based medicine. Patients are cared for by an interdisciplinary team consisting of physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, chaplain and volunteers. Patients are provided with around-the-clock physician and nursing care (evening and overnight hours are covered by physicians under call &ndash; by phone - who are able to respond when needed). The possibility of Specialist consultation is available from various fields of medicine, including: Surgery, Dermatology, Laryngology, Oncology and Psychiatry, as well as performing any necessary testing and arrangement of medical transport.

The presence of volunteers in addition to unlimited visiting hours and opportunities to provide care by relatives creates an unique home environment.

Anyone interested in being cared for at Saint Lazarus Hospice should contact their physician. Physicians are requested to complete an application form on behalf of interested patients (link to application form), which can be sent by email to ([osrodek@hospicjum.org](mailto:osrodek@hospicjum.org)) or sent by fax (+48 12 641 46 59).