

Counsel and advice

ULteam or 'Uitklaring LevensEindevragenteam' aims to provide advice and support in clarifying complex questions concerning the end of life.

The experts in this multidisciplinary team can be consulted on (complex) end-of-life questions, by patients (and their close ones) as well as by their attending physicians.

Why?

Since 2002 Belgium has three laws governing the end of life: the law on patients' rights, the law on palliative care and the euthanasia law. These three laws guarantee the patient's autonomy when making medical decisions, including those concerning the end of life.

Despite the development of palliative care and the functioning of LEIF (LevensEinde InformatieForum or Life's End Information Forum), the reality is that some people with end-of-life questions and/or a euthanasia request are still in need of help.

The reasons for this are very diverse:

- Still not enough people turn to supportive and palliative care or they do it too late, and all too often incurable patients are still met with therapeutic obstinacy.
- A euthanasia request is ignored or refused on moral or other grounds (e.g. the healthcare institution imposes additional conditions). A referral to another doctor is deontologically but not legally required.
- The euthanasia request is refused because the attending physician questions his own expertise in a complex situation (e.g. chronic psychiatric or non-terminal problems) and/or because the attending physician has serious doubts if the request is admissible.

These observations gave rise to the 'ULteam' initiative. ULteam aims to meet the need for a 'secondary consultation' for patients and doctors who are confronted with these problems.

The goal here remains to help clarify end-of-life questions and to provide a form of reception for people in need of help who want a second opinion. ULteam wants to offer advice and support within the legal framework and will always strive for optimal communication and cooperation with the attending physician(s).

For whom?

- People with an end-of-life question and/or a euthanasia request who need additional advice: terminally ill people, people with a non-terminal but incurable illness and people with an incurable psychiatric condition can turn to ULteam.
- Doctors who are confronted with a complex end-of-life problem and would like additional interdisciplinary clarification, professional advice or support.
- Foreigners who want advice on end-of-life decisions (including euthanasia) for which they cannot turn to their attending physician. For practical reasons, no advice is given to foreigners regarding psychiatric conditions.

By whom?

A specialised team composed of the following disciplines: palliative physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, social & psychiatric nurses, spiritual counsellor, oncologist, LEIF doctors, general practitioner, moral philosopher, ...

Procedure

Each request for help is clarified by our interdisciplinary team, in consultation with the attending physician(s).

Where?

ULteam, J. Vander Vekenstraat 158, 1780 Wemmel. Click [here](#) for directions.

Contact

Tel. 078 05 01 55 • info@ulteam.be

Agreements about cancelling an appointment

By cancelling on time, you help ensure that people can get urgent help. Please inform us as soon as possible.

Team

Sabien Bauwens UZ Brussel; palliatief support team, klinisch psychologe • **Paul Destrooper** LEIF; moderator, levensbeschouwelijk begeleider en LEIFconsulent • **Wim Distelmans** UZ Brussel en VUB; Leerstoel “Waardig Levenseinde” van deMens.nu, radiotherapeut-oncoloog, palliatieve zorg- en LEIFarts • **François Pauwels** huisarts, LEIFarts en teamarts palliatieve thuisbegeleidingsequipe Omega en Supportief Dagcentrum TOPAZ • **Luc Proot** LEIF West-Vlaanderen, chirurg en LEIFarts • **Frank Schweitser** palliatieve thuisbegeleidingsequipe Omega en Supportief Dagcentrum TOPAZ, hoofdverpleegkundige en moraalfilosoof • **Koen Titeca** AZ Groeninge; psychiater en LEIFarts, bestuurslid Vlaamse Vereniging voor Psychiatrie • **Kris Van de Gaer** LEIF; sociaal verpleegkundige en LEIFnurse • **Vicky Van de Velde** Forum Palliatieve Zorg; klinisch psychologe en LEIFconsulent • **Stefan Van Muylem** psychiater en LEIFarts • **Bea Verbeeck** psychiater en LEIFarts

Advisory Board

Maridi Aerts (UZ Brussel en UZ Gent; gastro-enteroloog, LEIFarts); **Johan Bilsen** (VUB; Public Health, onderzoeksgroep Zorg rond het Levenseinde, psychiatrisch verpleegkundige); **Johan Braeckman** (UGent; moraalfilosoof en menselijke ecologie); **Franky Bussche** (deMens.nu; directeur Studie en Onderzoek); **Peter De Deyn** (ZNA en UA; neuroloog en LEIFarts); **Etienne De Groot** (VUB; Ethische Commissie UZ Brussel, arts en jurist); **Magali de Jonghe** (Netwerk Palliatieve Zorg Gent-Eeklo; vrijzinnig humanistisch consulent); **Jacinta De Roeck** (ethisch adviseur open VLD; LEIF Antwerpen); **Dirk De Wachter** (KU Leuven; psychiater); **Joke Denekens** (UA; Ere-vice-rector en huisarts); **Caroline Devynck** (criminoloog VUB, LEIFconsulent); **Dirk Devroey** (VUB; Huisartsgeneeskunde); **Reinier Hueting** (huisarts en LEIFarts); **Manu Keirse** (KU Leuven; voormalig voorzitter Federale Evaluatiecel Palliatieve Zorg, klinisch psycholoog); **Frieda Matthys** (UZ Brussel en VUB; psychiater); **Geertje Miedema** (UZ Brussel; radiotherapeut-oncoloog en LEIFarts); **Eric Mortier** (UZ Gent en UGent; CEO en anesthesist); **Marc Noppen** (UZ Brussel en VUB; CEO en pneumoloog); **Colette Raymakers** (Villa Rozerood, Netwerk Levenseinde, palliatief verpleegkundige; bestuurder LEIF); **Marleen Temmerman** (UGent; gynecoloog); **Simon Van Belle** (UZ Gent en UGent;

medische oncologie en palliatieve zorg); **Christine Van Broeckhoven** (UA; moleculair genetica); **André Van Nieuwkerke** (LEIF West-Vlaanderen; Levenshuis Brugge, Eresenator, Quaestor); **Patrik Vankrunkelsven** (KU Leuven; huisarts en LEIFarts); **Thierry Vansweevelt** (UA; advocaat); **Joris Verlooy** (UZA; kinderoncoloog en LEIFarts); **Mia Voordeckers** (UZ Brussel; radiotherapeut-oncoloog, LEIFarts)