AN ANALYSIS OF USE OF ‘COOL ROOMS’ IN TWO CHILDREN’S HOSPICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

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• Death is a gradual process towards Puya (the land of souls/afterlife)

• Mourners live alongside the body of a departed loved one for year or more...
What are ‘Cool Rooms’?

• Bedroom kept cold
• Member of staff allocated to continue to care for child/young person
• Alternative to mortuary/funeral director
• Family visiting unrestricted
• Memory-making
• Access to support
Method

- Retrospective cohort, anonymised demographic data
- 2010-2017 (8 complete years)
  - Hospice
  - Year of death
  - Age at death
  - Gender
  - Cause of death
  - Place of death
  - Whether known to hospice prior to death
  - Whether used cool room -> if so, for how long

706 deaths
Results

- Use of cool rooms did not change over time
- 8% of those using cool rooms were not previously known to hospices (28/334)
Ages of patients using cool rooms

- Used Bereavement Suite?
  - Yes
  - No

Percent

Age at death
- 0-27 days
- 28-364 days
- 1-4 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-14 years
- 15-17 years
- 18-24 years
- 25 years+
Place of death and use of cool rooms

- Home
- Hospice
- Hospital
- Other

Used Bereavement Suite?

- Yes
- No
Cause of death and use of cool room

![Bar chart showing the percentage of used bereavement suite by cause of death.]

- Chromosomal
- Congenital
- Infection
- Malignancy
- Metabolic
- Neurological
- Neuromuscular
- Single organ failure
- Trauma

Legend:
- Yes
- No
Length of stay in cool room
Summary

• Cool rooms are well used amongst those known to the hospice

• FUTURE....

  • Establish why families make the decisions they do

  • Do we need evidence in bereaved families to see if cool rooms help?

• Ultimately, family choice is essential and our service tailored to individual families

• Options must be well resourced
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