

# SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT IN END STAGE LIVER DISEASE: RESULTS OF A REGIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE NETWORK SURVEY

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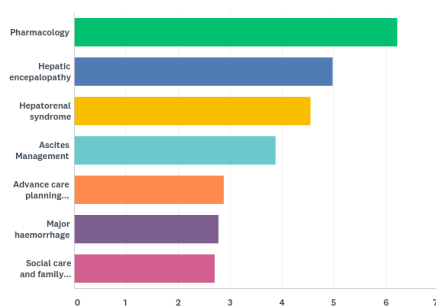
- Alcohol-related disease accounts for 37% of liver disease deaths.
- 90% of people who die from liver disease are under 70 years old.
- Over 70% of people with liver disease die in hospital.

## METHOD

A multiprofessional clinical practice survey and a retrospective case note review was carried out across a regional palliative care network in North West England.

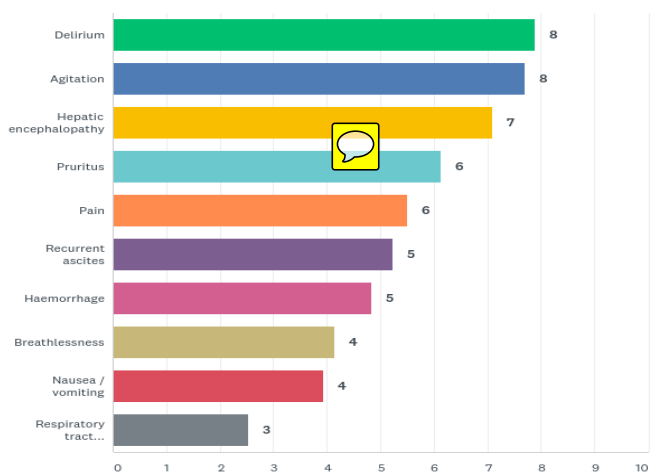
## RESULTS

What training (if any) do you feel would improve your skills and knowledge in caring for patients with end stage liver disease?

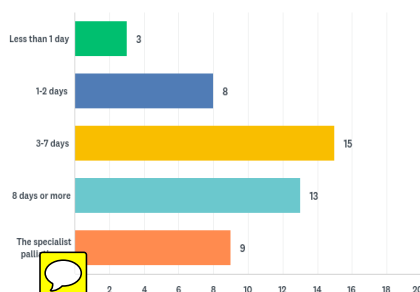


51 healthcare professionals who responded to the survey highlighted training in pharmacology of drugs used in end stage liver failure as a top priority.

A challenge identified in the clinical practice survey was management of agitation and delirium in this cohort of patients.



Q24 How long before this patient's death was the first contact made with the specialist palliative care team?



54% had their first contact with specialist palliative care services 7 days or fewer before they died.

## CONCLUSION

Recognition of the dying patient with end stage liver failure can be a challenge due to the fluctuating nature of the condition. Healthcare professionals in this survey highlighted a need for training in pharmacology of drugs used in end stage liver disease. A regional guideline has been written to guide healthcare professionals in the management of symptoms in patients with end stage liver disease.