

[English translation of the German online survey instrument (SoSci Survey).]

Digitalization in Hospice and Palliative Care

Expert survey on use, potential, and challenges among members of the German Association for Palliative Medicine (DGP)

Invitation and study information

Dear Madam or Sir, dear DGP members,

We would like to invite you to participate in our online survey on the topic of “Digitalization in Hospice and Palliative Care.” We ask you to read this information about the aims and procedure of the study and to decide whether you would like to take part. We are addressing you, because as DGP members, you bring experience and expertise in hospice and palliative care.

What is this about?

This survey is being conducted to examine the current use of digital technologies as well as the potential and challenges of digitalization in hospice and palliative care.

The survey is anonymous. Participation is of course voluntary, and non-participation will not have any negative consequences for you. We would be very pleased if we could win your support for this research project. Completing the questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes.

Please try to answer the questions as best you can, or simply skip a question if this is not possible or if the question cannot be answered based on your role or professional experience. You are also welcome to leave us additional comments in the free-text fields.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email: felix.muehlensiepen@mhb-fontane.de or vpeuckmann@ukaachen.de.

We would like to sincerely thank you for your commitment and your essential contribution!*

Kind regards,

— On behalf of the members of the Working Group on Digitalization of the German Association for Palliative Medicine (DGP) —

Felix Mühlensiepen and Vera Peuckmann-Post

*[The following text was inserted for participants of the DGP congress only, which took place in Aachen, Germany, 25-28 September 2026:]

"For participants at the DGP Congress in Aachen:

Are you a DGP member?

And have you not yet had the opportunity to take part in the survey on digitalisation in hospice and palliative care?

For the DGP Congress in Aachen, we have reopened the questionnaire for those who have not yet taken part.

Yes, I am a DGP member.

No, I am not a DGP member."

[If the second option was ticked, the following text appeared:]

"Thank you very much for your willingness to take part. You do not meet the formal requirements and unfortunately cannot participate"

Part I

The first part of the survey addresses the current usage of information and communication technologies.

1. Please indicate your use of the following devices/health services in hospice and palliative care. Multiple selections possible.

Response options: used for ≥ 5 years / current use (< 5 years) / will use in the future / no current use / not familiar with it

- Email
- Computer/notebook/laptop
- Smartphones or tablets
- Video consultation
- Digital health applications (DiGAs – prescribable digital applications/apps)
- Other mobile apps for your health care
- Digitalization in teaching and training, e.g., through instructional videos or learning games
- Personal electronic health record
- Wearables, e.g., smartwatches
- E-prescriptions
- Electronic patient documentation system, e.g., PalliDoc ®
- Fax machine
- Other: _____

2. Please rate on the scale your willingness to use artificial intelligence (AI) regularly in your work.

Response options: from “no willingness” to “absolute willingness” [likert scale]

3. Do you use artificial intelligence (AI) regularly? If yes, which do you use? Multiple selections possible.

- No.
- Yes, professionally (e.g., in patient care, teaching, research): _____
- Yes, privately: _____

4. Feel free to add comments here. You are welcome to describe an example from your practice.

[free text]

Part II

In the next section, we will ask you general questions about digital health care.

5. This is about health-related information from the internet and your personal assessment. Please check the statement that applies to you.

Response options: strongly disagree / disagree / neither agree nor disagree / agree / strongly agree [likert scale]

- I know how to find websites with helpful health information.
- I know how to use the internet to find answers to my health questions.
- I know which websites with health information are available on the internet.
- I know where to find helpful health information on the internet.

- I know how to use the health information I find on the internet to help me.
- I am able to critically evaluate websites with health information.
- I can distinguish between trustworthy and questionable websites with health information.
- I feel confident in using information from the internet to make decisions about my health.

Source: Marsall M, Engelmann G, Skoda EM, Teufel M, Bäuerle A. Measuring electronic health literacy: development, validation, and test of measurement invariance of a revised German version of the eHealth Literacy Scale. *J Med Internet Res.* 2022;24(2):e28252. doi: 10.2196/28252

6. I consider the use of digital health services (e.g., medical apps, video consultation) in general health care to be fundamentally suitable.

Response options: does not apply at all / does not apply / neutral / applies / fully applies
[likert scale]

7. I consider the use of digital health services (e.g., medical apps, video consultation) in hospice and palliative care to be suitable.

Response options: does not apply at all / does not apply / neutral / applies / fully applies
[likert scale]

8. Feel free to add comments here. You are welcome to describe an example from your practice.

[free text]

Part III

In the next section, we will ask you questions about digital health care with regard to the care of palliative patients.

9. Please assess how digitalization in hospice and palliative care affects the following areas.

Response options: very negative / somewhat negative / neutral / somewhat positive / very positive / not at all [likert scale]

- Relationship with the patient
- Relationship with relatives and close persons
- Relationship with other care providers
- Quality of care
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency (e.g., time required, cost-effectiveness)

10. What barriers do you see in the use of digital health services in hospice and palliative care? Multiple answers possible.

- Lack of technical equipment (poor internet connection, outdated devices, etc.)
- Gaps in data protection
- Little information about available services
- Insufficient evidence for the benefit of the services
- Lack of accessibility
- Poor quality of current services
- Lack of knowledge among relatives
- Lack of knowledge among other care providers, namely: _____

- High costs
- Lack of user-friendliness
- No need, as satisfied with current analog solutions
- Lack of knowledge among patients
- No time savings
- Other, namely: _____

11. What benefits do you see in the use of digital health services in hospice and palliative care? Multiple answers possible.

- Location-independent working
- Time-independent working
- Efficient working, e.g., time savings
- Good availability of documents
- Ensuring data protection
- Ensuring patients' privacy

12. I consider digitalization useful in the following areas:

Response options: strongly disagree / disagree / neutral / agree / strongly agree

- Medical therapy
- Advance care planning, advance directive, healthcare power of attorney
- Nutrition
- Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy
- Nursing care
- Social pedagogy
- Psychology
- Spiritual care
- Flexible contact with relatives and close persons
- Consultative involvement of external health care staff

13. Feel free to add comments here. You are welcome to describe an example from your practice.

[free text]

Sociodemographic data and job satisfaction

Below, we ask you some questions about yourself. This information helps to contextualize and analyze the results of this survey.

We would like to remind you again that the survey is anonymous, i.e., no conclusions can be drawn about your identity.

14. In general terms: How satisfied are you overall with your professional situation?

Response options: very dissatisfied / dissatisfied / somewhat dissatisfied / somewhat satisfied / satisfied / very satisfied [likert scale]

15. To what extent do the following statements apply to you?

Response options: strongly disagree / disagree / somewhat disagree / somewhat agree / agree / fully agree [likert scale]

- All in all, I am very satisfied with my profession.

- I am generally satisfied with the nature of my current work.
- I often think about changing my profession.

16. How old are you? _____ years

17. How long have you been working in your profession? _____ years

18. Which gender do you identify with?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary/genderqueer
- Prefer not to say
- Option to specify your own: _____

19. In which federal state do you predominantly work?

[please select]

20. How large is the place where you work?

[please select]

21. What is your profession?

- Physician
- Nurse
- Psycho-oncologist
- Coordinator
- Social worker
- Physiotherapist
- Volunteer
- Other: _____

22. What proportion of your working time do you spend in palliative medicine?

- Palliative medicine accounts for more than half of my working time.
- Palliative medicine accounts for less than half of my working time.

23. In which care structure do you predominantly work?

- General outpatient palliative care (AAPV)
- Specialized outpatient palliative care (SAPV)
- Inpatient hospice
- Outpatient hospice service
- General inpatient palliative care
- Specialized inpatient palliative care
- I am not active in direct care.
- Other: _____

24. Which patients do you care for most?

- Adults
- Children and adolescents

Last page

Thank you very much for your participation!

Your responses have been saved; you may now close the browser window.