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Historical Development of Pediatric Palliative Care

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Abstract

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Pediatric palliative care (PPB) is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach that aims to meet the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of children and their families. The development of PPB commenced throughout the latter half of the 20th century. Progress in medicine and the dissemination of children's rights principles contributed significantly to the formation of PPB. Due to advancements in medicine and technology, the life expectancy of children afflicted with severe or potentially fatal illnesses has risen, necessitating enduring medical care and assistance. As a result, palliative care has developed to alleviate symptoms and enhance quality of life. Palliative care pioneer St. Christopher's Hospice was established in 1967 by Cicely Saunders. In 1982, Helen House, a children's home, was founded. In London in 1986. Dr. Goldman has formed a multidisciplinary team to offer expert care in pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support, and family counseling for children with life-threatening illnesses. In Turkey, the PPB level is currently at its initial stage. In 2015, the Bursa Dörtçelik Children's Hospital became the first establishment in Turkey to create a pediatric palliative care unit. The establishment and development of pediatric palliative care in Turkey are recent and still inadequate.