

12 June 2008

**The National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC) welcomes Professor
Mayur Lakhani CBE as its new Chairman in June 2008**

Professor Mayur Lakhani CBE has been appointed to be the next head of the National Council for Palliative Care.

Professor Mayur Lakhani CBE FRCP FRCGP, 48 is a practising GP in Leicestershire. For two years running he has been in the Health Services Journal (HSJ) Top 50 most influential people in the NHS. He was Chairman of the Royal College of General Practitioners, the UK's largest medical royal college from 2004 to 2007. He was the youngest elected Chairman at the age of 43. He is now medical director of the NHS in the East Midlands, Chaired the BME GP access inquiry and is a member of the Next Stage (Darzi) Review Primary and Community Care advisory board.

In 2007 he was awarded the CBE in the Queens Birthday Honours List. He is the author of many publications and co edited three books. He is the principal author of the landmark health policy document on the future direction of general practice, *roadmap* from the RCGP, published in 2007.

Dr Lakhani has been a GP principal since 1991 in Sileby near Loughborough. The practice has won several awards for quality. He has played an active role in improving local health services through clinical governance and commissioning of services. He is also a GP appraiser.

Professor Lakhani is committed to the cause of world-class end of life care. He was a member of the End of Life Care Strategy Advisory Board and on the Board of the Cancer Reform Strategy.

Eve Richardson, Chief Executive of NCPC welcomed the appointment of Mayur Lakhani.

'We are delighted to have a new Chair with so much experience in improving patient care and who will continue to support the evidenced policy and analysis role that NCPC has developed. Mayur is committed to building on this to ensure that palliative and end of life key is a priority across all health and social care and housing sectors.'

Mayur Lakhani said

'I am delighted to join the National Council and to build on the great work done by my predecessor Francis Plowden. It is a privilege to work with the NCPC whose work I have admired. This is a time of great opportunity to put into place excellent end of life care for all that need it.

I am well aware, as a practising GP that despite recent improvements, there is much more that can be and needs to be. This is a time for engaging the

public, clinicians and the NHS in these important discussions. I am determined to take action to improve standards and services'

ENDS

Notes for Editors

PALLIATIVE CARE FACTS

1. Most people have palliative care needs at the end of their life.
2. Cancer is the underlying cause in only 25% of all deaths, yet 95% of access to specialist palliative care services is by people with cancer.
3. Those dying from diseases other than cancer suffer gross inequalities in their access to specialist palliative care services.
4. 83% of all deaths are of people aged 65 and over yet only around 65% gain access to specialist palliative care services.
5. The current distribution of palliative care services is often random when compared with assessed needs of populations
6. Patient preferences for place of care and death are not met for most people.

Reference: Submission of evidence to the House of Commons Health Committee, NCPC, 2004

ABOUT PALLIATIVE CARE

"Palliative care is the active holistic care of patients with advanced, progressive illness. Management of pain and other symptoms and provision of psychological, social and spiritual support is paramount. The goal of palliative care is the achievement of the best quality of life for patients and their families. Many aspects of palliative care are also applicable earlier in the course of the illness in conjunction with other treatments."¹

ABOUT NCPC

NCPC is the umbrella organisation for all those who are involved in providing, commissioning and using palliative care and hospice services in England, Wales & Northern Ireland. NCPC promotes the extension and improvement of palliative care services for all people with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions. NCPC promotes palliative care in health and social care settings across all sectors to government, national and local policy makers.

CONTACT

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