

His Excellency Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr
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Dear Mr Christopher Onyangi,

Hospice Africa Uganda is the model for Hospice Africa which has a vision of "Palliative Care for all in need in Africa". It was commenced in 1993 at a time when there were only 3 countries in Africa with oral morphine for use in the home, as well as health facilities. This is essential for the poor who cannot reach curative treatment in the LMIC's. In Uganda less than 5% reach curative therapy for cancer.

Hospice Africa Uganda, through our Institute of Hospice and Palliative care in Africa (IHPCA) and International Programmes, has trained initiators and others to degree level in palliative care, in 30+ countries as well as caring for 33,000+ patients to date, majority of them at home. Millions are suffering as I write in Africa because of lack of treatment and palliative care for all cancers. Palliative care is now recognised in 37 countries but only 25 have affordable oral morphine for use in the home. Less than 33% of African countries have a radiotherapy machine.

Uganda is recognised as the leader. In 2014 in the publication from WHO and WHPCA, Uganda was found to have a comprehensive shrike in line with the developed world, the only country in Africa. In 2015 the Economist published a survey of palliative care in the world and Uganda was found as the second best place to die in Africa after S Africa.

This has become possible because of the introduction of affordable and culturally acceptable morphine, initially Kenya in 1991 and in Uganda in 1993. It is now produced for the whole country at Hospice Africa Uganda and is demonstrated to other African countries. This is paid for by the Government of Uganda and is free to all who are prescribed by a recognised prescriber.

In 2003, Ugandan was the first country in the world to allow Nurses specially trained in palliative care to prescribe morphine. This is because of the dirth of doctors, who were previously, with vets and Dentists, the only recognised prescribers. As a result of this action palliative carer is now available in 95 Districts and accessible to all who can reach a prescriber.

Why is morephine so essential? it is because palliative care gives holisitc care to support the patient and family with the components of Total Pain, consisting of social, economic, spiritual, psychological and cultural problems which can only be addressed when the severe pain is controlled.

This meeting will discuss the recent claim from 2 Senators in US, that WHO was misguided in their documents promoting oral morphine. Since 1986, with the first edition of their best seller "Cancer Pain Control" HO have declared morphine to be the best treatment for severe pain, due to its lack of side effects and a ceiling where pain can break through increased dose. One of them addresses the need for

balance from Governments who have been concentrating on preventing addiction and not on the suffering particularly in cancer, for lack of opioids.

The second document was the recommendations for treatment of pain in children.

It is so important that Uganda as the model for all Africa is represented at this meeting. Our to the sort notice, it would be difficult for someone from here more involved to come. But if we hear of someone attending will also let you know. I have copied this to others who are involved.

Please contact me if you need further information on this. Please let me know you can attend.

Yours sincerely.... For God and our country

Anne

Prof Dr Anne Merriman, MBE, FRCPI, FRCPEdin, MSc(IntComHealth).

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