

Table 32: Houttekier 2014

Study (ref id)	Houttekier 2014 ²²³
Aim	To examine to what extent physicians are aware of the impending death of their dying patients and if awareness is related with communication and quality of dying in the last 3 days of life.
Population	Physicians at a University Hospital asked to complete questionnaires regarding 228 people who had died between Jun 2009 and February 2011
Setting	University Hospital in the Netherlands
Study design	Retrospective survey
Methods and analysis	Thirty five-item survey instrument used. Physician and patient characteristics were recorded about as well as physician awareness of impending death of the person and communication about impending death with their relatives and family. Treatment during last days of life and physician's rating of the person's quality of life during final 3 days and quality of dying (using a numerical rating scale 0-10) Bivariate association between awareness of impending death and physician communication in the last days of life were analysed using Pearson's chi squared test.
Survey findings	More likely that physicians discuss death with patients when physician is aware of impending death than unaware (57% versus 39%) More likely that physicians discuss death with relatives when physician is aware of impending death than unaware (5+% versus 39%)
Limitations	Very serious limitations.

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Applicability of evidence	Setting outside UK, but, findings applicable to UK context.