

D. Tel letters. 8.11.13

Slippery pathway

SIR – Max Pemberton (Health, November 4) says that when he was training he did not receive one day's teaching in palliative care. Yet it was on the curriculum then. Dame Cicely Saunders, who predated him by a number of years, had a profound influence on the care of the dying.

There have been many good deaths without the Liverpool Care Pathway, and many dreadful deaths on it. To suggest that this non-evidence-based pathway is the crystallisation of a "clear and compassionate approach" fails to acknowledge the shocking effect it has had.

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