**Unit 10: Death and dying**

**Palliative care or hospice care** supports dying patients and their relatives but does not try to cure. It focuses on supporting patient and family to cope with realities of a terminal condition from **diagnosis through treatment**, **death, bereavement**.

-An important aspect of palliative care is the alleviation of pain.

-Drugs such as Morphine is used to relieve the pain while at the same time maintaining a patient's full faculties.

**-Alternative treatments of palliative care include :**

* Relaxation therapy
* Message
* Music therapy

**-Euthanasia** refers to the practice of intentionally ending a life in order to relieve [pain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pain) and [suffering](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffering).

**- How to define the moment of death?**

**-Post-mortem care** is a set of procedure which includes making records and preparing the body for relatives. It varies according to culture and religion.