



icpcn

international children's
palliative care network

Myths versus Facts in Children's Palliative Care

Myth

1

It is difficult to assess pain levels of babies and young children and unsafe to prescribe opioids for their persistent pain.

Fact

Various methods and tools can be used to assess pain in children and neonates.

Opioids can be effective and safe to use in the care of children and neonates when used by trained and knowledgeable professionals.

Myth

2

Children can be treated as small adults.

Fact

Children think, behave and communicate differently to adults.

Children are always developing so each child will be at a different stage of development.

Children need appropriately designed services to meet their assessed needs.

Myth

3

Children don't know they are dying unless we tell them that they are.

Fact

Many children are aware that they are dying but they want confirmation from adults.

Learn more facts about children's palliative care by taking our free E-learning courses available in 6 languages at

www.icpcn.org

