1. Children are not ‘small adults’ so all treatment is child focused.
2. Children’s palliative care spans neonates, babies, toddlers, school children, adolescents and young adults. Each age group requires a different approach.
3. Many rare conditions will never be encountered in the adult population.
4. Multiple family members can be affected by the same genetic condition.
5. The time span of a life limiting condition may extend to years and even decades.
6. Some patients will need assistance to transition from child centered to adult palliative care services.
7. Care embraces parents, siblings and grandparents, all of whom are vulnerable as they face the changes to their lives that the child’s diagnosis creates and as they anticipate bereavement.
8. The child’s physical, social, emotional and cognitive development continues and must be catered for. Medicine dosages change as the child grows.
9. Carers must respond appropriately to each child’s changing ability to communicate and to understand what is happening to them.
10. Provision for continuing education and opportunities to play are a child’s right, adding to the complexity of their care.

Find out more at www.icpcn.org