

Palliative Care and Human Rights

Patient-Friendly Guide

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As a person in need of palliative care, you exercise the rights prescribed by the law the knowledge and implementation of which is important for your welfare.

What is palliative care? – Palliative care is the joint effort of multidisciplinary team, as well as informal care-givers including patient’s family members and other relatives to alleviate suffering and ensure welfare for persons with incurable diseases. These are incurable diseases producing pain and other highly distressing symptoms.

The palliative care cannot prolong life significantly but it totally changes patient’s condition – it relieves pain and other distressing symptoms.

“Active, multi-disciplinary care, which has the primary objective to alleviate pain and other pathological symptoms, and to offer social and psychological support to patients. It includes patients with incurable diseases; such care can improve the quality of life of patients and their families.”

The law of Georgia on Health Care (Article 3, paragraph h’4)

The lack of proper knowledge of the essence of palliative care, its possibilities and importance, available resources and rights in the country, serves the basis for many people to suffer from distressing symptoms and hopelessness.

The present guide provides information on palliative care service for persons in need of such care, related rights and ways to protect these rights.

Palliative care is an integral part of the healthcare system of Georgia and everyone in need of such care is entitled to it.

Despite the fact that it is only 8-9 year that palliative care clinics exist in Georgia, the palliative care has already become an inseparable part of the healthcare system of Georgia and includes in-patient service (hospice) as well as homecare.

“Any person who is in need of palliative care should be able to access it without undue delay, in a setting which is, as far as reasonably feasible, consistent with his or her needs and preferences”.

Recommendation (2003) 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the organization of palliative care

Palliative care is available to persons in need of it at the specialized hospitals. The list of these hospitals is given below in the chapter “Palliative care providers”.

The state funding of palliative care is available at the hospital as well as at home. In particular cases the cost of care is fully covered by the state. In other cases, the patient covers part of the cost.

The palliative care at the hospital is funded by the state in the following cases:

- Patient with severe form of cancer (incurable condition);
- Patients with severe form of HIV/AIDS (incurable condition);
- Persons under the age of 18 with incurable diseases regardless of the type of illness.

Reimbursement conditions:

- The state covers 70% of hospital service cost for patients with severe form of cancer; 30% is paid by the patient¹;
- The state fully covers the hospital service cost for the patients with severe form of HIV/Aids (incurable) and the patient pays no fee;
- 80% of the service for the persons under the age of 18 with incurable disease is covered from the program, 20% is paid by the patient².

Palliative home care is funded only for the patients with severe diseases (incurable) registered at Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Telavi and Zugdidi municipalities.

Care visits at home place are fully funded by the state³.

Finally, the cost of palliative care at the hospital, with some exceptions, is covered by the **insurance companies**. Likewise the requirement for other service cost, this case too considers the conditions indicated in the insurance policy (agreement).

The palliative care **for the population below the poverty line** is free at the relevant hospitals. The cost of service is covered by the insurance company which insures the patient.

¹ According to data of 2011, 22.5 Gel is paid by the patient, 52.5 Gel – by the State;

² According to data of 2011, 12 Gel is paid by the patient, 48 Gel – by the state

³ According to data of 2011, the service cost is 11 Gel.

Any discrimination upon obtaining palliative care service shall be excluded.

Every patient shall be protected against discrimination.

“Discrimination of the patient on the basis of his/her race, skin color, sex, religious convictions, political and other views, ethnic and social status, origin, property or title status, place of residence, disease, sexual orientation or negative personal attitude is prohibited”.

Law of Georgia on Healthcare (Article 6, paragraph 1)

Persons in need of palliative care shall be especially protected from discrimination. The palliative care shall be accessible for any person in need of it regardless of the disease, the residence place or income.

“Access to palliative care should be based on the need, and must not be influenced by disease type, geographical location, socio-economic status or other such factors.”

*Recommendation (2003) 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states
on the organization of palliative care*

The Palliative care provided to you shall be of relevant quality and correspondent with the contemporary standards.

As a patient, you have right to receive quality medical care which corresponds to the universally recognized standards. Such approach promotes your safety, health and improvement of the quality of life.

“Clinical practice guidelines for palliative care, based on the best available evidence, should be developed in a systematic way, with the participation of patients”.

*Recommendation Rec (2003) 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states
on the organization of palliative care*

Clinical practice guide for palliative care is elaborated and approved in Georgia – the so called “Instructions on the provision of palliative care to persons with the chronic incurable diseases”.

The mentioned instruction shall be interesting for you as a patient and for your family members in order to assess the provided medical service and be able to pose questions to the medical staff on the issues you find interesting.

Mentioned instruction can be downloaded at <http://medportal.ge/mohsrv/lawfiles/2162.pdf>.

Everything shall be done to avoid pain and suffering caused by other symptoms.

You have right to obtain medical service which alleviates the pain and suffering caused by other symptoms. This right is based on the international instruments as well as the constitution and laws of Georgia.

“As a human right, inaccessibility of pain killing treatment and opioid analgetics for the patients in need of them shall be considered a cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment”.

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, Inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment

Proper pain management is an inseparable and integral part of the palliative care. At a particular stage it includes the use of pain killer narcotic means (the so called narcotic analgesic drugs).

Remember that according to the current legislation:⁴

- A doctor can prescribe seven days’ supply of narcotic analgesics for relieving the pain;
- On the basis of the mentioned prescription the narcotic analgesics shall be issued within 5 business days. After expiration of this date, if needed the physician shall issue a new prescription;
- A doctor can substitute narcotic analgesics, its form or dose before its full use in case it is required for alleviation of pain;
- For alleviation of pain the doctor can prescribe various forms and name of narcotic analgesics in one prescription;
- For alleviation of pain, the primary healthcare doctor working in a village has right to prescribe the narcotic analgesics.

⁴ Order #157/N of July 10, 2008 of the Minister of Health, Labor and Social affairs; joint order #18/N-#96 of January 28, 2010 of the Minister of Health, Labor and Social affairs and Minister of Internal Affairs; Order #55/N of February 26, 2010 of Minister of Health, Labor and Social affairs.

“Most importantly, patients in palliative care have a right to the maximum attainable human dignity, to the best available pain relief and reduction of suffering.”

*Recommendation Rec (2003) 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states
On the organization of palliative care*

You exercise a full right to obtain information about your health related issues including palliative care.

As a patient you have right to know everything about your health and medical service to be provided to you.

“Everyone is entitled to know any information collected about his or her health”.

The Convention on human rights and Biomedicine, Article 10.2

Namely, according to Georgian legislation (Law of Georgia on the Rights of Patients), you have right to receive information on the following issues:

- Types of diagnostic or curative methods applied by the hospital, i.e. resources possessed;
- The cost of medical service and the method of payment;
- The rights and responsibilities you exercise according to internal regulations of the hospital (remember: the internal regulations cannot limit your rights prescribed by the law);
- Identity of your attending doctor and his/her related experience;
- The aim of medical intervention, expected effect, associated risk for your health and life;
- Other alternative method of treatment and effects and risks of these methods;
- Outcomes of medical examination;
- The diagnosis and its meaning for you.

Further, information provided to you shall be comprehensive, unbiased and understandable.

Request clear and precise information, pose questions to medical staff about the issue of your interest concerning your health and medical service to be provided to you!

Considering your wish, you can get familiar with you medical records.

As a patient you have right to get familiar with you medical records (the law of Georgia on the Rights of Patient, Article 17).

Further, you can request a copy of your medical records. For this purpose you only have to write an application.

You are entitled to request amendments to the medical records in case you find the given information incorrect.

Can a doctor withhold information about heavy disease?

Very rarely a doctor may consider that providing information about serious diseases and its outcomes may harm you. In such case the law allows for an exception and the doctor, considering your interests, may withhold full information.

Doctor has no right to take an independent decision about withholding information from you. To do so the conclusion from the Medical Ethics Committee or confirmation from another doctor is required.

„In addition, in any case, if you insist on receiving information, the doctor shall provide comprehensive information about your health.“

(The Law of Georgia on The Rights of Patients, Article 18).

In case you don't want to receive the information, your wish shall be respected. Although there are some exceptions.

You have the right prescribed by the law to refuse to receive information related to your health regardless of the reason of such request (*The Law of Georgia on The Rights of Patients, Article 20*)

“The wishes of individuals not to be informed shall be observed.”

The Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (Article 10.2)

In addition, if there is a serious disease and the information concerns medical intervention associated with the high risk (e.g. chemotherapy) which requires patient's consent, this information shall be provided to you.

Provision of information to you is necessary if you are diagnosed with a dangerous transmitted infection and there is a high risk of infecting others. In such case you will be informed about this in order to avoid prevalence of disease.

Your consent is required for any type of medical service provided to you.

Remember that the doctor shall obtain an informed consent from you prior to any medical intervention including intervention related to palliative care.

The informed consent implies that prior to obtaining information the patient was provided the detailed information about all aspects of medical intervention (Laws of Georgia on the Right of Patient, Healthcare and Medical Practice).

The doctor shall obtain information from you after making sure that you have clear understanding of the reason for required medical intervention, its aim, associated pain and discomfort, possible aggravations and alternative methods.

“An intervention in the health field may only be carried out after the person concerned has given free and informed consent to it.”

The Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (Article 5)

You can express your agreement, refusal to the medical intervention or choose several alternative versions, go to another doctor and ask for his/her opinion (The law on the Rights of Patient, Article 7).

Right of Refusal to medical service

In any case you can refuse to receive any type of medical service. It concerns life-sustaining and palliative care too.

“A patient at the terminal stage who is capable of taking conscious decision has right to refuse to resuscitation, life-sustaining or palliative treatment and/or palliative care.”

Law of Georgia on Healthcare, Article 148

Further, the attitude of doctor and other medical staff will not change towards you. They will continue provision of care to you and offer you alternative form of medical assistance acceptable to you.

“It is prohibited to provide medical services against the will of a patient who has decision-making capacity, with the exception of the cases stipulated in the legislation of Georgia”.

The law of Georgia on the Rights of Patient, Article 23

Expressing your wish about medical service in advance.

You can express your wish in written form in advance about the medical service in case when due to disease you will have no capacity to take decision.

„The previously expressed wishes relating to a medical intervention by a patient who is not, at the time of the intervention, in a state to express his or her wishes shall be taken into account”.

The Convention on the Human Rights and Biomedicine, Article 9

According to the legislation of our country previously expressed wish may concern resuscitation, life-sustaining treatment as well as palliative care (Law of Georgia on The Rights of Patients, Article 23, paragraph 1).

You can name a person in advance who will take decision about your treatment, in case above mentioned circumstances are identified – terminal condition, disease caused by heavy disability (Law of Georgia on The Rights of Patients, Article 24, paragraph 2).

When decision is taken by the relatives

If due to disease your decision-taking capacity limited, your relatives will be asked to take decision about your medical service. In addition, as mentioned above, Georgian legislation gives you right to express your wish about treatment in advance.

According to legislation, the relatives of terminally ill patient have right to refuse to provision of medical service to patient in case when their refusal is preconditioned by respecting the dignity of a patient or is based on the patient’s opinion.

It shall be taken into consideration that the Georgian legislation entitles the doctor to disagree with the decision of relatives of patient lacking decision-taking capacity when the doctor considers that the decision is against the interest of the patient.

“If patient with limited capacity or patient who lacks decision making capacity needs urgent medical service without of which the death, disability or serious deterioration of health is imminent, but patient’s relative or legal representative is against provision of medical service, healthcare provider shall take decision in accordance with patient’s health interests”.

(Law of Georgia on The Rights of Patients, Article 24, paragraph 25)

Importance of protection of confidentiality

Information which is made known to medical staff during provision of medical service to you is confidential.

In General, the medical staff has no right to disclose this information to others without your consent.

“Healthcare provider shall maintain confidentiality of the information about the patient both within the period of his/her life as well as after patient’s death”.

Law of Georgia on The Rights of Patients, Article 24, paragraph 27

Remember! your doctor has the right to disclose information about you in case:

- You consent to do so;
- When withholding information poses a threat to other persons’ life or health (e.g. danger for prevalence of heavy infectious disease).

Very often the relatives of a patient request detailed information about the patient’s health condition from the medical institution. Remember, in such case your consent is required and you should decide on who can obtain this information from your doctor.

“A patient capable of consenting has right to decide who can obtain information about his/her health condition”.

The law of Georgia on the rights of Patients (Article 21)

Private life and the right to have relatives beside

Doctor shall ensure privacy in performing your examination or other manipulations. Further, you have right to be shielded from “unwanted eye” while receiving medical service.

You have right to refuse the attendance of third party (for instance students, residents, interns). Although, it is your good will to give them possibility for obtaining practical knowledge.

“Only the attendance of direct recipient of medical service is permitted with the exception of the cases when patient consents or requests presence of other persons”

Law of Georgia on The Rights of Patients, Article 30

On another hand, in providing palliative care, it is very important for you to have your relatives and family members beside you.

Another aim of palliative care is to take care of the family members of patient. In addition, as a rule the family members are also involved in the palliative care.

The right to have relatives by comes from above mentioned law on the Rights of Patients, Article 30, which aims at respecting the patient's private life.

Therefore, the legislation considers possibility for you to have your relatives including family members by you during the medical service in case you wish so.

When you are not satisfied with the medical service – Complaint and compensation

You have a right to file a complaint if dissatisfied with the medical service and you consider that your rights were violated and the harm was incurred upon you.

“A patient, his/her relative, and/or legal representative have the right to file a complaint on physician, nurse or other medical staff or medical institution itself to the medical institution's administration, health care managing body, and appeal to the Court or other arbitrary body”.

The law of Georgia on Healthcare, Article 104

The Court:

You can address the court and claim the compensation for material or non-material (e.g. moral) harm. The harm can be incurred from⁵:

- Violation of the patient's rights (e.g. ungrounded refusal to provide medical service, including due to discrimination, inaccessibility of information, intervention without consent, breach of confidentiality, etc);
- Mistake of medical staff;
- Various inaccuracies in the activities of medical institution (e.g. use of low quality materials or equipment);
- Wrong supervision and regulation from the state.

⁵ The law of Georgia on the Rights of Patient, Article 10

“The person who has suffered undue damage resulting from an intervention is entitled to fair compensation according to the conditions and procedures prescribed by law.”

Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, Article 24

Further to the compensation you can also demand:

- Suspension or cancelation of license of medical staff;
- Changes in the state medical and sanitary standards.

Other alternatives:

Prior to addressing the court, you can communicate directly with the medical institution’s administration or local government (for instance, local municipality, Mayor’s office) or the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs.

In case you are a beneficiary of the state program: you can address Health Insurance Mediation Service about the issues related to the medical insurance.

The issue related to insurance may concern violation of insurance conditions by the insurance company, non-transparency of conditions, unreasonable limitation of choice, etc.

The contact information of the Health Insurance Mediation Service is provided in the chapter “Resources for protection and support of rights in Georgia.”

For clarification of the issues related to individual and corporate insurance initially you have to address the insurance company (insurer). In case of corporate insurance for clarification you can address your employer which keeps contract with the insurer and insurance company.

In case of any form of health insurance you can address Georgian Insurance Association for advice and assistance in problem solution, namely, “Insurance Guide” of this association (see the chapter “Resources for protection and support of rights in Georgia”).

If your right is violated by the state government or local self-governing body, public institution or public person, you can address The Public Defender of Georgia for protection of your rights. Public defender’s offices operate in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, Zugdidi, Gori, Akhalkalaki, Marneuli (see the chapter “Resources for protection and support of rights in Georgia”).

Finally, some NGOs and their coalitions working in the field of health and human rights may provide assistance.

Contact information of such organizations is given in the chapter “Resources for protection and support of rights in Georgia.”

Georgian National Legislation and international instruments which provide information for this guide

National Legislation:

- **Laws:**
 - Law on the Rights of Patient (2000)
 - Law on Healthcare (1997)
 - Law on Medical Practice (2001)

- **Other normative acts:**
 - Order #157/N of July 10, 2008 of the Minister of Health, Labour and Social Affairs;
 - Joint Order #18/N - #96 of January 28, 2010 of the Minister of Health, Labor and Social Affairs and Minister of internal affairs of Georgia;
 - Order #55/N of February 26, 2010 of Minister of Health, Labor and Social Affairs.

International documents:

- Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (entered into force on March 1, 2000 in Georgia);
- Recommendation Rec (2003) 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the organization of palliative care.

Palliative care providers

Transfiguration Nunnery Mercy Center and Homecare Service

Address: #7_Urbnisi Str., Darejan palace territory, Tbilisi (entrance from Metechi slope or Avlabari square)

Phone:: 2747023,

E-mail: peritsvalebisonasteri@gmail.com

Web: www.mercycenter.ge

Proposed assistance/Service: provision of care to patients with incurable and various chronic diseases, alleviation of pain and moral support.

Often in hospice there are patients who require medical service only for particular period, for instance post surgical operation period, aggravation of any chronic disease, etc.

Those patients are transferred to hospice by evaluation of homecare service, hospice doctors and require 24-hour care and nursing.

Patients of hospice are female. Homecare patients are both male and female. Most of the patients are adults and elderly people; although palliative care is provided to children with incurable diseases.

Application: it is necessary to contact in advance at the above mentioned address.

Service cost: hospice and homecare service are not funded through the state program. The source of their funding is donation. Generally, patient pays no fee for service as the payment for palliative care service is not charged. Patient or the family member may donate particular amount of money though.

Cancer prevention centre

Address: Lisi Lake, 0177, territory of National Centre of Oncology (two-story building behind the centre with banner – “Cancer Prevention Centre – Hospice”).

Phone: 2369112, *mob:* 599587377,

E-mail: rema_cpc@yahoo.com

Web: www.cancer.org.ge; www.hospice.med.ge

Service offered to patients: Palliative care (in-patient and out-patient), chemotherapy, homecare.

Application: Patient may address out-patient service independently, as well as on the basis of agreement in advance at the above mentioned address. In-home consultations or at another hospital is available.

Service cost: the hospital participates in the state program “Palliative care for incurable patients” (see chapter “Important rights in the field of palliative care”, sub-chapter “Accessibility of Palliative Care”).

Reimbursement conditions:

- Patients with severe form of oncologic diseases pay 30% of total cost of service which amounts 22.5 Gel per day;
- The state program fully covers the cost of service for persons with severe form of HIV/Aids;
- Persons under the age of 18 with HIV/Aids pay 20% of the total cost of service, which amounts 12 Gel per day.

Service cost is covered by the private insurance companies by individual or corporate insurance scheme.

Palliative care Service at the National Centre of Oncology

Address: Lisi Lake, Tbilisi, 0177

Phone: 2238541; Fax: 2397716

E-mail: onc.palliativecare@gmail.com

Service offered to patients: Palliative care (in-patient and out-patient)

Resources: in-patient Palliative care departments in Tbilisi and Zugdidi. Palliative care at home place is provided in Tbilisi, Telavi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi.

Application: patient may refer directly to out-patient service as well as on the basis of pre-agreement at the above mentioned contact phone.

Service cost: the hospital participates in the state program “Palliative care for incurable patients” (see chapter “Important rights in the field of palliative care”, sub-chapter “Accessibility to palliative care”).

Reimbursement conditions in terms of program:

- Patients with severe form of oncologic diseases pay 30% of total cost of in-patient service which amounts 22.5 Gel per day;

- The state program fully covers the cost of in-patient service for persons with severe form of HIV/Aids;
- Persons under the age of 18 with HIV/Aids pay 20% of the total cost of in-patient service, which amounts 12 Gel per day.

Palliative care Service of Batumi Center of Oncology

Address: #118 Pushkin Str., Batumi (at the intersection of Pushkini str., and 26 May Strs)

Phone: 276752, 222952;

E-mail: adjonkcenter@mail.ru

Service offered to patients: Palliative care for oncologic patients, pain management, desintoxication measures, hemotransfusion, small surgical operations, palliative chemotherapy.

Coalition Homecare in Georgia

Address: #187-a Nutsubidze str., Tbilisi

Phone/fax: 2316202, 2314158, 2322760, 253 74 48/49

Web: www.homecare.ge

Service offered to patients: homecare implies medical, social and household assistance provided to patient at the home place; the mentioned to particular extent includes palliative care.

Application: patient may refer to the mentioned address or contact phone.

Service cost: socially unprotected (vulnerable) population (in Tbilisi below 100,000 scores, in Gori and Adjara below 70,000 scores) received free of charge service funded by donor organization, service for other patients is paid.

Resources for protection and support of rights in Georgia

Public Defender of Georgia

Address: Nino Ramishvili sq. #6., Tbilisi 0179

Phone: 2234499 / 2913814 / 2913815 / 2913841 / 2913842 / 2913843 / 2913875 / 2913876 / 2913877

E-mail: info@ombudsman.ge;

Web: www.ombudsman.ge

Health Insurance Mediation Centre

Address: #144 Akaki Tsereteli Ave., Tbilisi 0119

Phone: 2555115

E-mail: info@him.ge

Web: www.him.ge

Georgian Insurance Association “Insurance guide”

Web: www.insurance.org.ge

For application you have to download, fill in the form available at www.insurance.org.ge, and then send it to e-mail: gzamkvlevi@insurance.org.ge

Coalition “Human Rights in healthcare”

Phone: 8790954954

E-mail: coalition.hrh@hrh.ge; gjavashvili@hotmail.com

Web: www.hrh.ge

Literature and internet resources:

Legislation

The laws and other normative acts can be downloaded from Georgian Legislative Courier: www.matsne.gov.ge

The laws also can be downloaded from the Parliament's web-page: www.parliament.ge.

Healthcare legislation can be downloaded from the web-page: www.healthrights.ge; and Medical portal: www.medportal.ge

International instruments

The Council of Europe Convention and its additional protocols can be downloaded from the Council of Europe's archive page: www.conventions.coe.int.

Georgian versions of the convention and its protocols in the field of healthcare and biomedicine can be downloaded from the page "Human Rights in Healthcare" at the address: <http://www.healthrights.ge/legislation/international/?lang=ge> .

Recommendations of the Committee of ministers in the field of healthcare can be downloaded from the Council of Europe page: http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/health/recommendations_en.asp#policy

Georgian version #Rec(2003)24 of the Committee of Ministers on the Organization of Palliative Care can be downloaded at:

[http://www.parliament.ge/files/619_8111_116308_Rec\(2003\)24-Georgian.pdf](http://www.parliament.ge/files/619_8111_116308_Rec(2003)24-Georgian.pdf)

Sub-legislative normative acts:

The Order #157 of July 10, 2008 of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs which defines the rule of prescribing and issuing narcotics and approves "Instructions on the provision of palliative care to persons with the chronic incurable diseases".

Changes to the order entered in 2010 – Order #55/N of February 26, 2010 of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social affairs.

Joint order #32/O - #102 of March 13, 2000 of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social affairs and March 15, 2000 of The Minister of Internal Affairs – "On approval of the rule on storage, registration, administration, prescription and use of narcotic drugs required for the beneficiaries under the treatment with narcotic analgesic treatment".

Changes to the order were made in 2008 and 2010 –the joint order #199/n-883 and #18/n - #96 of the

Minister of Labor, Health and Social affairs and Minister of internal Affairs.

Normative acts can be downloaded from the web-page of Georgian Legislative Courier www.matse.gov.ge

Code of ethics and conduct

- **Georgian Code of medical ethics (2003);**

Electronic version can be downloaded from the following address:

<http://www.medportal.ge/files/saqEqimKodeqsEtic.html>

- **Professional Code of conduct of doctors (2011);**

Electronic version of the rules for public discussions can be downloaded from following addresses:

Med portal: www.medportal.ge

Georgian Medical Association: www.gma.ge

Association of Family Doctors of Georgia: www.afdg.ges

National recommendations on the clinical practice (guidelines):

- **National recommendations on the clinical (guidelines) practice and relevant protocols** can be downloaded from the web: www.moh.gov.ge; interested person may find the link “Healthcare”, then go to “Guidelines”, afterwards the link “guideline/protocol”;
- **“Instructions on the provision of palliative care to persons with the chronic incurable diseases”** can be downloaded from the web: <http://medportal.ge/mohsrv/lawfiles/2162.pdf>.

Publications:

- **“Human Rights in Patient Care: a Practical Guide for lawyers”**, Open Society Georgia Foundation (2011), electronic version of the book is available at the web-page “Human Rights in Patient Care”: <http://www.healthrights.ge/a-practitioner-guide/?lang=ge>
- **“Ethical and legal aspects of palliative care and terminal stage of illness”**;
- **“Health and Human Rights”** – a book for patients;
- **“What to do during the chemotherapy”**

E-versions of above mentioned four publications are available at the web-page of Health and Human Rights: <http://www.healthrights.ge/category/publication/book/?lang=ge>

- **“Legal aspects of Treatment and care of the patients at the terminal stage of illness”**, G.Javashvili, G. Kiknadze, “Contemporary Medicine”, volume 2, N1, 2003
- **“Treatment and care at the end-of-life: Review of Georgian Legislation”**, G. Javashvili, G. Kiknadze, in “Ethical Eye: Euthanasia, vol. II”, pp.41-52. 2004, Council of Europe Publishing, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, Printed in Germany. ISBN 92-871-5200-4 (English). ISBN 92-871-5199-7 (French).