Kwaliteitsindicator rond vredig sterven, bleek bijvoorbeeld dat bewoners een hogere kans hadden om vredig te sterven, wanneer de familie oordeelde dat er voldoende verpleegkundig personeel aanwezig was (Hoofdstuk 5).

Het laatste hoofdstuk (Hoofdstuk 7) vat de belangrijkste resultaten van de voorgaande hoofdstukken samen en reflecteert over de bevindingen en methodologische aspecten in een bredere context, wat uiteindelijk resulteert in een aantal aanbevelingen.

Kort samengevat komen deze aanbevelingen op het volgende neer. Omdat al heel wat kwaliteitsindicatoren voor palliatieve zorg ontwikkeld zijn, wordt aanbevolen om waar mogelijk op deze bestaande indicatoren in de praktijk en in kwaliteitsonderzoek verder te bouwen. Idealiter zou men deze indicatoren verder kunnen testen in de praktijk, waar nodig aanpassen en zo deze indicatoren optimaliseren. Verder zouden internationale organisaties het gebruik van kwaliteitsindicatoren en het opstellen van een internationale minimale indicatorenset moeten promoten. Gebruik van een minimale indicatorenset kan op nationaal en internationaal niveau bijdragen tot de transparantie van de kwaliteit van palliatieve zorg. Daarbij moeten beleidsmakers en onderzoekers ook zoeken naar manieren om kwaliteitsindicatoren te meten met routinematig verzamelde gegevens. In deze dissertatie is gebleken dat bijvoorbeeld huisartsennetwerken (peilstations) bruikbare registraties hebben op basis waarvan scores op kwaliteitsindicatoren berekend kunnen worden.

En “last but not least”, is het belangrijk dat beleidsmakers en onderzoekers zich realiseren dat het meten van indicatorscores slechts een eerste stap is in het werkelijk verbeteren van de kwaliteit van zorg. Zorgverleners kunnen aan de hand van scores op kwaliteitsindicatoren nagaan waar de zorg nog beter kan. Idealiter volgen hieruit dan strategieën om deze suboptimale kwaliteit van zorg te verbeteren.

REFERENTIES
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maaike De Roo was born July 20, 1986 in Ghent, Belgium. After studying Greek-Mathematics in high school, Sint-Bavohumaniora in Ghent, she started studying Medicine at Ghent University in 2004. During her medical studies, she was involved in the research project “Development of a symptom scale for the frail older patient at the end of life” under the supervision of prof. Nele Van Den Noortgate and dr. Ruth Piers. End of June 2011, she obtained her medical degree and moved to Amsterdam. In July 2011 she started working as an early-stage researcher on the EURO IMPACT project (see “About EURO IMPACT”) at the EMGO+ Institute for Health and Care Research, Department of Public and Occupational Health, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam. Within the EURO IMPACT project (European Intersectorial and Multidisciplinary Palliative Care Research Training) Maaike wrote her Phd-thesis based on a work package concerning quality indicators for palliative care, under the supervision of prof. Anneke Francke and prof. Luc Deliens. During the project, she was also seconded to the ISPO (Istituto per lo Studio e la Prevenzione Oncologica) in Florence, Italy for 6 months, to work on the EURO-SENTIMELEC data under the supervision of prof. Guido Miccinesi.

In September 2014, Maaike started working as a trainee in Internal Medicine, in the Orbis Medisch Centrum in Sittard-Geleen, the Netherlands.
ABOUT EURO IMPACT

EURO IMPACT, European Intersectorial and Multidisciplinary Palliative Care Research Training is an EU funded Marie Curie Initial Training Network with a specific focus on training early-stage researchers (European Union Seventh Framework Programme FP7/2007-2013, under grant agreement n° [264697]). It aims to develop a multidisciplinary, multi-professional and inter-sectorial educational and research training framework for palliative care research in Europe. EURO IMPACT is coordinated by Prof Luc Deliens and Prof Lieve Van den Block of the End-of-Life Care Research Group, Ghent University & Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium. Other collaborators involved are: Zeger De Groote, Sarah Brearley, Augusto Caraceni, Joachim Cohen, Anneke Francke, Richard Harding, Irene Higginson, Stein Kaasa, Karen Linden, Guido Miccinesi, Bregje Onwuteaka-Philipsen, Koen Pardon, Roeline Pasman, Sophie Pautex, Sheila Payne. For the affiliations of the collaborators, see the EURO IMPACT website (http://euro-impact.eu/).

Besides the focus on training, another goal was to finalise the scientific output into a PhD-dissertation. Since the trajectory of the researchers only lasted for 3 years, including all obligatory trainings mentioned below, existing data that had been gathered previously by the EURO IMPACT partners across Europe were used for the PhD-dissertation.

During her EURO IMPACT trajectory, Maaike participated in the following trainings:

• “Ethics in Palliative Care”; Networkwide training EURO IMPACT, Brussels, 1 day, July 2011

• “Multidisciplinary research in Palliative Care”; Networkwide training EURO IMPACT, Brussels, 1 day, July 2011

• “Palliative care research – theoretical, practical, ethical and methodological aspects”; Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim, 1 week, September 2011

• “International Comparison of Health Care Systems”; The Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (NIVEL) Utrecht, Rotterdam, 1 week, November 2011

• “Research Methods and Statistics in Palliative Care”; King’s College London, Cicely Saunders Institute, London, 2 weeks, January 2012
About EURO IMPACT

- “Psychosocial, Cultural, Ethical and Spiritual Issues in Palliative Care”; King’s College London, Cicely Saunders Institute, London, 2 weeks, April 2012

- “Palliative Care: History, concepts and debates” [“The evidence base and the impact on policy”, “Global history and development of hospice and palliative care”, “Concepts, models and debates in supportive and end of life care” and “Assessing need and developing service evaluation”]; e-learning International Observatory on End of Life Care, Lancaster University, 8 weeks, April-June 2012

- “PhD in Palliative Care – Summer Academy 2012”, Summer School PhD in Palliative Care, International Observatory on End of Life Care, Lancaster University, 2 weeks, June 2012

- “Training societal dissemination: disseminating findings to other researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and users of our services; translation of results into useful and usable information for practice and policy makers”; Networkwide training EURO IMPACT, Milan, 1 day, March 2013

- “Media training: communicating about delicate and ethical subjects and situations”; Networkwide training EURO IMPACT, Milan, 1 day, March 2013

- “Presenting in English”; Taalcentrum VU University, Amsterdam, 6 days, April-May 2013

- “The impact of research on health care policy and clinical practice: what else do we need besides scientific excellence?”, Networkwide training EURO IMPACT, Prague, June 2013

Maaike was seconded to the ISPO (Istituto per lo Studio e la Prevenzione Oncologica) in Florence, Italy for 6 months (September 2012 - February 2013).
LIST OF PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS

Articles in international peer-reviewed journals


Abstracts presented in international conferences
De Roo ML, Francke AL, Van den Block L, Donker GA, Lozano Alonso JE, Miccinesi G, Moreels S, Onwuteaka-Philipsen BD, Salvetti A, Deliens L, on behalf of EURO IMPACT. Hospitalizations of cancer patients in the last month of life in four European countries: do duration and frequency reflect the quality of care? 8th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care, Lleida, 5-7 June 2014. Poster presentation.

De Roo ML, Miccinesi G, Onwuteaka-Philipsen BD, Van Den Noortgate N, Van den Block L, Bonacchi A, Donker GA, Lozano Alonso JE, Moreels S, Deliens L, Francke AL, on behalf of EURO IMPACT. Actual and preferred place of death as quality indicators for palliative care? 8th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care, Lleida, 5-7 June 2014. Poster presentation.
List of publications

De Roo ML, van der Steen JT, Galindo Garre F, Van Den Noortgate N, Onwuteaka-Philipsen BD, Deliens L, Francke AL, on behalf of EURO IMPACT. Dying peacefully in residents with dementia in long-term care facilities: a good quality indicator? 13th Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care, Prague, 30 May - 2 June 2013. Poster presentation.

De Roo ML, Leemans K, Claessen SJJ, Cohen J, Pasman HRW, Deliens L, Francke AL, on behalf of EURO IMPACT. New developments in quality indicators for palliative care. 7th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care, Trondheim, 7-9 June 2012. Poster presentation.
