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Amelie unveils a brand new view of comprehensive psychosocial support and its potential in the Czech Republic. In all phases of treatment and recovery, Amelie sets up links between care rendered by professionals and self-help groups, motivation workshops and training programs focusing on primary and secondary prevention.

Amelie's Code:
- There is no difference in position between the donor and the beneficiary. Either as a professional or a volunteer, I work with the satisfaction mainly for my own satisfaction.
- I respect the convictions (faith, creed), decisions, and freedom of choice of everyone who visits the programs of Amelie o.s.
- I offer my own experience or professional knowledge, but I do not give preference to any treatment methods or approaches, drugs and the like. Within the activities of Amelie o.s. there is no place for commercial activities by individuals or companies.
- I collaborate and seek common ground with Amelie o.s. and its partners, as well as with other entities, persons and organizations that deal with the same issues.
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The project of psychosocial assistance and psycho-oncology treatment was developed by Peve Tichá, who as soon as the first phase of her breast cancer treatment was completed began helping out as a volunteer at an inpatient oncology unit. Experienced in volunteering in an inpatient oncology unit and skilled in communication and PR management, she designed a project that won support of Henrieta Tondlová MD, one of the first psychiatrists who started to work with oncological patients and their families and friends 28 years ago, and Máchula Chrástová PhD who follows up doctor Tondlová’s work.

Amelie’s activities are based, inter alia, on conclusions of “Psychiatric and psychosocial issues faced by patients suffering from malignant tumors”, a project implemented in 1985-1990.

We cooperate with the Integrated Oncology Centers, First Faculty of Medicine, General University Hospital, Prague, Olomouc University Medical Faculty and other medical facilities.

“Thank you for the early help you gave me when I learnt my husband’s diagnosis. Leaving you I was full of hope and I knew that I was not alone with this problem and that it was worth fighting. Thank you for your great help in the times of bad news. I am so glad I have Internet at home and grateful I found you there.”

From a client’s letter

Amelie Outpatient Units (Ambulance Amelie, a trademark of professional psychosocial assistance) are psychiatric or psychological outpatient units providing oncological care and their relatives and friends with both individual or family therapy and, wherever necessary, psychiatric treatment with medication. The goal is to have enough professional medical facilities prepared to render psychosocial care covered by health insurance programs of most health insurance companies. These methods of care for oncological patients and their relatives and friends have not become standard in the Czech system of covered care, yet.

Amelie Centers (daily centers) — to oncological patients and their relatives and friends Amelie Centers offer individual and group therapeutic sessions lead by psychologists and therapists, including art therapists and drama therapists, relaxation and education programs lead by experienced trainers (music workshops, yoga, tai-chi, healthy cooking and other courses). Amelie Centers link professional care with self-help groups.

Long Week-Ends with psychotherapeutic and physiotherapeutic program for patients (also during outpatient treatment) and their relatives and friends


“February 2003 – I had my first epileptic fit. I underwent biopsy… diagnosed with fibillary astrocytoma… surgery… November 2007 – my second surgery and then radiation treatment. I am completely down, totally depressed, unable to do anything else but weep… Lucky me, Amelie came in my way. I want to thank you, Amelie, for all I am now… Fall 2008 — I start discontinue antidepressant drugs, cut doses of antiepileptics and start part time work. And most of all I enjoy each day and live it!”

From web portal www.osudy.cz, Lenka, aged 28

Other goals for the future:
- To increase awareness of the public, oncologists and other specialists of the importance of interconnected psychotherapeutic, support, spiritual and social care for patients and their relatives and friends
- To establish a safety net including these services in the Czech Republic
- To develop a methodology enabling both medical and non-medical facilities to work with oncological and other long-stay patients, to provide them with psychotherapy and support assistance eligible for coverage within the health insurance system
- To find ways how to bring patients back to life and work, including support helping them get adjusted to new conditions

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Amelie Volunteers — trained volunteers, both former patients and people with no oncological experience, work in Amelie Centers at inpatient wards of oncology clinics.

Volunteer trainings started in 2008. We seek to make volunteer activities an integral part of care for oncological patients under various levels of stress. Special care must be given to former patients who register for our program.

… I received information that opened the door to my volunteering in the oncology ward. I understood that it would be tough work, but I did not feel discouraged … what I liked was the community and personal approach … my visit in the hospital lead me to a new perception of reality.

From a survey among candidates for Amelie volunteers

Amelie expands its activities by opening new facilities in other parts of the Czech Republic.