

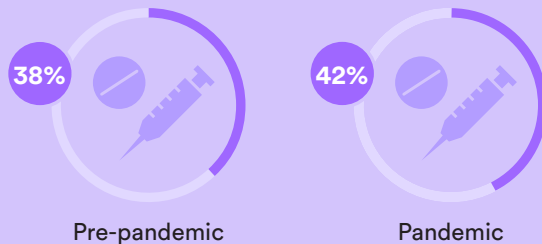
Deaths at home during Covid-19 – a patient and family perspective

Nuffield Trust used data to look at the end-of-life care people received during the pandemic – for instance, if they went to their GP or to hospital, to find out whether that care was of a good quality.

Nuffield Trust also spoke to patients and families with recent experience of end-of-life care to understand their perspectives on the research, and highlight issues of most concern to them.

More medications got prescribed during the pandemic than before, although patients and families did have poor experiences accessing and using those medications.

% of people with at least one medication prescribed for symptom management

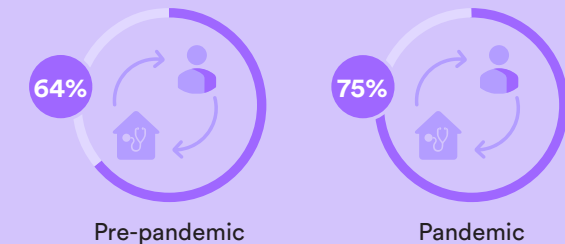


Patients and their families faced difficulties getting the medication they needed.

- Getting hold of someone to prescribe medication was sometimes difficult.
- People needed more information: they did not always understand exactly how and when to use medications.
- Sometimes syringe drivers were only offered very close to death. People weren't always properly supported to use them well.
- Care was not always joined-up: for example, sometimes people were sent home from hospital without their medication.

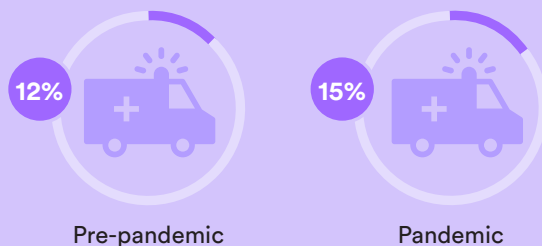
In the pandemic people generally received more support from general practice teams – although this does not necessarily mean they received the care they needed.

% of people with at least one general practice interaction in the last month of life



Patients with dementia or Alzheimer's who died had more visits to urgent care during the pandemic. This might be because they were struggling to get support at home.

% of people with at least one A&E visit in the last month of life



People living in the most deprived areas received fewer services during the pandemic than those in better-off areas.

Average number of general practice interactions per person in the pandemic

