

# Myths vs Facts in Children's Palliative Care



## ..Myth..

**1** It is difficult to assess pain levels of babies and young children and unsafe to prescribe opioids for their persistent pain.

## ..Myth..

**2** Children can be treated as small adults.

## ..Myth..

**3** Children don't know they are dying unless we tell them that they are.

## ..Fact..

Various methods and tools can be used to assess pain in children and neonates.

Opioids can be effective and safe to use in the care of children and neonates when used by trained and knowledgeable professionals.

## ..Fact..

Children think, behave and communicate differently to adults.

Children are always developing so each child will be at a different stage of development.

Children need appropriately designed services to meet their assessed needs.

## ..Fact..

Many children are aware that they are dying but they want confirmation from adults.



Learn more about palliative care for children at  
[www.patchsa.org](http://www.patchsa.org)