

## **Abstract**

This dissertation deals with the topic of terminal hospitalizations of residents of nursing homes for older adults and was written within the framework of the doctoral study of Social Work at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University. The aim of the thesis is to understand the factors that lead to terminal hospitalization of residents of nursing homes for older adults. The research design is mainly descriptive in nature and exploratory to a lesser extent.

The thesis consists of peer-reviewed articles, three of which have been published in peer-reviewed journals, and a fourth is currently under review. The first article is a directed documentary analysis. It focuses on analyses of a public policy document for older adults, tracking how elements of palliative or end-of-life care are emerging in those documents in the 13 most rapidly aging populations. It provides insight into the system in which terminal hospitalizations are happening. The next two articles focus on terminal hospitalizations of nursing home residents. The second study is qualitative; the article summarizes the findings of an analysis of 27 semi-structured interviews conducted with general nurses, social workers in nursing homes and general practitioners who had their patients in nursing homes. The third article (under review) focuses on the analysis of factors associated with the place of death of residents in hospital or in nursing home. The fourth and final article is an integrative review of the literature on advance care planning in nursing homes for older adults, a key process for preventing hospitalizations of nursing home residents. In the discussion section, the dissertation presents possible interventions to reduce terminal hospitalizations of nursing home residents in the Czech Republic, and concludes with possible future research directions.

## **Key words**

Terminal hospitalization, palliative care, nursing home, residents, clients