

END-OF-LIFE EXPERIENCES IN PALLIATIVE CARE

REPORTS FROM PORTUGUESE PALLIATIVE CARE PROFESSIONALS (N:137)

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89.4% reported ≥ 1 end-of-life experiences:

- **84.7%** Terminal lucidity or Death soon after meaningful visits
- **50.4%** Sudden clarity in cognitively impaired patients
- **48.9%** Visions of deceased loved ones
- **30.7%** Intuitive sense of imminent decline/death
- **25.5%** Sensing a presence

How clinicians make sense of ELEs

Seeing them firsthand → spiritual meaning
No direct exposure → medical explanations

• Why this matters for care:

Spiritual meaning → more **engaged care & professional fulfilment**

Medical explanations → more **avoidance & professional dissatisfaction**

• Context in practice:

ELEs are stigmatized → clinicians ask for training