

Table 1 The background characteristics of respondents

Respondents (n=311)

|                      | average $\pm$ SD | minimum value | maximum value |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Age                  | 49 $\pm$ 8       | 28            | 75            |
| Years of experiences | 23 $\pm$ 8       | 4             | 50            |

Institution (n=549)

|   | Collected | %    |
|---|-----------|------|
| Core cancer treatment hospitals (388)                 | 226       | 58.2 |
| Medical institutions owns Palliative Care Units (161) | 79        | 49.1 |

\* 6 responses could not be identified

|   | number | %    |
|---|--------|------|
| Age group   |        |      |
| 20–29 years   | 1      | 0.3  |
| 30–39 years   | 39     | 12.8 |
| 40–49 years   | 119    | 39.1 |
| 50–59 years   | 118    | 38.8 |
| 60 years and over                                   | 27     | 8.9  |
| Sex   |        |      |
| Male  | 273    | 90.1 |
| Female  | 30     | 9.9  |
| Palliative Care Specialists certified by JSPM       |        |      |
| Specialist (including provisional medical advisors) | 128    | 41.2 |
| Non-specialist                                      | 183    | 58.8 |

| Region                     | Hokkaido • Tohoku | Kanto | Chubu | Kinki | Chugoku | Shikoku | Kyushu • Okinawa |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|------------------|
| The number of distribution | 79                | 116   | 92    | 91    | 47      | 27      | 97               |
| The number of responses    | 26                | 43    | 41    | 33    | 25      | 11      | 37               |
| The response rate (%)      | 32.9              | 37.1  | 44.6  | 36.3  | 53.2    | 40.7    | 38.1             |

\* 95 responses could not be identified regions