**[Local Lottery Leaves Elderly Dying Without Any Dignity](http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-9c74-Local-lottery-leaves-elderly-dying-without-any-dignity)**

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DYING people are caught in a postcode lottery with inadequate pain relief and poor access to specialist help, according to research published today.

A study led by palliative care expert Baroness Ilora Finlay found the “provision of roundthe-clock access to specialist palliative care and pain control is inconsistent.”

It revealed that some areas only offer a phone line for people in their last days of life — others have specialist palliative care teams.

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman director Alex Robertson said: “It is deeply worrying that good end-of-life care remains a postcode lottery.

“We have seen horrific cases of people dying without dignity, where they have been left in pain and their final wishes not communicated with their families.”

The research was based on Freedom of Information requests to clinical commissioning groups in England, which hold millions of pounds of NHS money and are responsible for arranging patient care