

8

# Chronically Ill and Dying Bodies



Chronic illness doesn't end a person's sexual life. It changes it. At the end of life, intimacy and closeness don't stop mattering.

**In one palliative care study, 96% of patients had never been asked about intimacy before their consultation, yet almost all said the conversation, when it finally happened, was helpful.**

For people living with long-term conditions, sexual wellbeing is rarely part of clinical care. Treatments that directly affect sexual function go undisclosed. At the end of life, the silence deepens, despite clear evidence that people who are dying still value closeness, connection, and intimacy.

