

Information for patients and carers

Specialist Palliative Care in Hospital

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care focuses on improving your quality of life when you are affected by an illness that cannot be cured.

The aim of palliative care is to control symptoms; help make plans for care in the future and support you and your loved ones through the physical, psychological, social and spiritual impact of illness.

Why have I been referred?

We help to support people who have advanced illness or an illness that is expected to progress. People are referred to our service for support with management of symptoms or when it is felt planning for the future would be helpful.

You can have palliative care at any stage of your illness. This can also be accessed alongside treatments, therapies and medicines which help control your illness.

Having palliative care does not necessarily mean that you are likely to die soon – some people have palliative care for years. However, palliative care does include caring for people who are thought to be in the last year of their life; often called end of life care

The Hospital Palliative Care Team

We are a team of Palliative Medicine Consultants, Clinical Nurse Specialists, an Advanced Specialist Practitioner and Specialist Doctors offering 7 days a week specialist level support. We do not replace your

usual care team, instead we work alongside them to give you the best possible care.

Our role in the hospital:

- Supporting the care of adults with advanced progressive disease
- Supporting care for adults in the last days of life
- Managing complex symptoms, often with medications
- Providing emotional, social and spiritual support alongside other services such as Psychologists, Social Workers and Chaplaincy Services
- Supporting complex future care planning
- Supporting complex discharge processes including referral to hospice services and community teams
- Providing education throughout the Hospital Trust for all teams in Supportive and Palliative Care and End of Life Care

Sharing your wishes and preferences

How will my information be shared and what information is included?

Most of your health records are now electronic. Discussions that the Palliative Care Team have with you and your loved ones, and any decisions made, will be documented on your electronic record and can be seen by your hospital care team – this helps everyone involved in supporting you know what is important to you.

Palliative care information can also be recorded electronically by your GP. When this is done, it can be seen in the hospital and by other community services such as the Hospice and District Nurses.

Information recorded can include:

- Information about your illness and your prognosis
- Decisions about your treatment
- Who is looking after you
- Your preferred place of care
- Who you wish to speak for you if you become too unwell to make decisions for yourself

Please let us know if there is any information about your future care that you do not wish to be shared.

Who can see my records and how safe and confidential is it?

Your electronic record can be seen by health and social care professionals who are involved in your care. Every person who has access to this information is employed by an organisation that understands and respects the need for patient confidentiality. Access to all records is monitored and restrictions apply to those who can see, add, or alter information.

Contact details

Your main contact in the Palliative Care Team is:

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Hospital Palliative Care Team – 01772 522055

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolem@LHTR.nhs.uk

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