

Introduction

Being in hospital can be a confusing experience. This feeling can be made worse if you are referred to a service that you do not understand or perhaps have never heard of. We hope you will find this leaflet helpful and informative.

What is Specialist Palliative Care for?

To improve the quality of life for patients by providing advice and help on how to deal with physical symptoms and emotional and psychological distress, and by promoting overall well-being.

Who we are

At Torbay Hospital, the Specialist Palliative Care Team consists of doctors and nurses who have undertaken additional higher level training within Palliative Care.

Our mission

To treat patients as individuals, improve their quality of life and provide support to their family and carers.

What we do

We are a support service to the team of doctors and nurses who are caring for you while you are in hospital.

We see patients with cancer and other illnesses that may be life-limiting.

After referral to the service, we will visit you and assess your needs. We will then recommend any changes to medication, treatment options that may be appropriate, referral to other key workers, e.g. social workers, physiotherapist, chaplain etc. and other actions which will help to improve your quality of life.

If you would like a summary of your treatment plan we would be pleased to give you a copy.

We will make sure that we are aware of what is important to you and the support that may be needed by your family and carers.

After discharge

When you are discharged from hospital, your care can be continued in the community.

There are specialist palliative care colleagues, known as Community Palliative Care Nurses, who are able to visit you at home if needed. They are based at Rowcroft Hospice in Torquay. If you and your GP are in agreement, a referral will be made to this team.

Where appropriate, the hospital team can see patients in Outpatient Clinics at the hospital.

Would you like to help improve services by being a member of a User Group?

If so, the hospital would like to hear from you. Please contact:

Lead Nurse Cancer Services
Telephone: (01803) 655543

Contact details

Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team

Specialist Palliative Care Nurses

Team leader

Telephone: (01803) 655042

Telephone: (01803) 655042

Telephone: (01803) 655042

Telephone: (01803) 655042

Nurse Team Lead

Telephone: (01803) 655042

Specialist Palliative Care Doctors

Consultant

Telephone: (01803) 655056

Consultant

Telephone: (01803) 210810

Consultant

Telephone: (01803) 210810

There will be other doctors with the team as part of their Specialist Training Programme.

Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team Secretary

Telephone: (01803) 655056

Fax: (01803) 654288

Out of Hours Advice

Telephone: (01803) 210800

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

23741/V5/Cancer and Palliative Care
Services/TSDFT/08.22/Review date 08.24



Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

Specialist Palliative Care Service

This leaflet will be useful
for relatives, friends and
carers

Working with you, for you