

Palliative and end of life care

Template policy for all services



Palliative and end of life care – policy content

Purpose

There is a requirement for care services to have policies and procedures in place which cover palliative and end of life care where this is provided.

We have produced this guidance for Care Inspectorate staff to help them review palliative and end of life care.

This template is NOT a palliative care / end of life care procedure for care services. However, it may be of help to care providers developing and reviewing policies/ procedures.

This template is intended to provide general advice only on the legal requirements and best practice guidelines and does not preclude more stringent local protocols being in place.

Scottish legislation and current good practice (at the time of writing)

For Managerial and Quality Improvement Staff

NHS Scotland: Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and end of life care (2016 – 2020)

Current good practice guidance

NHS Scotland: Caring for people in the last days and hours of life (December 2014)

NHS Scotland & Healthcare Improvement Scotland: Palliative Care Guidelines (2014)

BMA, Resuscitation Council UK & Royal College of Nursing: Decisions relating to cardiopulmonary resuscitation 3rd Edition 1st revision (2016)

NHS Scotland: Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [DNACPR] Integrated Adult Policy, Decision Making & Communication (2010) (currently undergoing review).

Areas to be addressed

Preferred place of care

To be outcome focused – is this where the person wants to be?

Anticipatory care planning and advanced care planning - is the service working towards facilitating this approach?

What does the policy say with regard to keeping people in the service if they become ill or need palliative and / or end of life care?

Does it detail who they will work with or who they access for advice if necessary, eg primary care teams or access to specialist palliative care services?

Education and Training in palliative and end of life care

To meet the persons care needs

What does the policy say with regard to education – is palliative and end of life care on their annual training plan?

Education provision the provider / managerial staff want to see for their staff should be mentioned, eg education in pain management; advanced dementia and end of life care; syringe pump education.

Care planning and out of hours care

There should be direction given as to the necessity of having end of life care plans in place, and if the person is deteriorating that they will be reviewed as is necessary dependant on the person's condition.

The policy should give clear direction on whom to contact in an out of hours situation and to look towards achieving where the person wants to be.

Care after death and bereavement

Does the service address the religious, spiritual, psychological and cultural care needs of the person and their family / carers? The focus here should be on education and training for this area of care. The support available for staff should also be in the policy.

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