Hospital Palliative Care Referral Pathway

Use this pathway for referral of patients with Palliative Care needs

NHS Lothian

Is the illness at a stage where curative treatment is not an option and the main treatment goal is palliation of symptoms, and maximising quality of life?

YES

NO → Continue disease management

Does the patient currently have complex palliative care needs that might require specialist input?

- Uncontrolled pain or other symptoms
- Complex end of life care needs
- Complex physical, psychological, spiritual or family needs that cannot be met with existing support

NO → At discharge, phone the GP explaining:

- Diagnosis and prognosis
- Any plans for follow up

YES

Can the needs be addressed by your team using the Palliative Care Guidelines? (see: Intranet/Healthcare/Palliative Care)

YES → Implement changes and monitor response

IMPROVEMENT → At discharge, phone the GP explaining:

- Diagnosis and prognosis
- Any plans for follow up

NO IMPROVEMENT → Is the patient currently a hospital inpatient?

NO → Contact GP and suggest referral for community specialist palliative care assessment

→ Patient is reviewed in the community

YES → Consultant/registrar agree to referral to Hospital Palliative Care Team

YES

- Contact your Hospital Palliative Care Team: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm
- General out-of-hours advice, contact:
  St Columba's Hospice Tel: 0131 551 1381
  (For WGH inpatients)
  Marie Curie Hospice Tel: 0131 470 2201
  (For RIE or St John's Hospital inpatients)
- For medical advice, doctors can contact the on-call palliative medicine specialist via switchboard or the hospices.

→ Hospital Palliative Care Team will provide telephone advice and/or will assess the patient

28/06/10