

Palliative and End-of-Life Care: follow-on pack for practice teams.

The following are suggestions for practice team discussion after the webinar.

You might find it helpful to consider recent or current patients in your practice

1) Patient identification

- How does your practice team identify patients approaching the end of their lives?
- Hospital discharge and outpatient letters? Other ways?
- What about care home residents?

2) Practice Palliative Care register

- How are patients put onto your practice's Palliative Care register?
- How much do clinicians and admin team members use the Ardens EOLC template?
- What happens in your practice once a patient is put on your EOLC register?

3) Reviewing patients on the practice Palliative Care register

- Does your practice hold regular Gold Standards Framework / Palliative Care review meetings?
- How useful do you find those meetings? Are there ways they might be improved?
- Who ensures that Advance Care Planning and ReSPECT conversations are held?
- How does your practice team ensure that a ReSPECT form is in the patient record and in the patient's home?
- How does your practice team ensure that ReSPECT forms are kept up-to-date?
- How does your practice team decide when to refer a patient to the District Nursing team?

4) Pro-active care

- How does your practice team decide when to issue anticipatory medications?
- How does your practice team ensure that the EOLC MAR chart is in the patient's home and in the patient record?
- How does your practice team review EOLC MAR charts that have been in place for a while?
- What are your practice processes for pro-active follow-up of patients? Phone / in person / visit?

5) Last days of life

- How are patients monitored when in their final days of life? GP home visits?
- How does your practice team ensure optimal liaison with out-of-hours services?
- What are your practice arrangements for starting syringe pumps and updating EOLC MAR charts (N.B. this a frequent source of difficulty for our District Nursing colleagues)
- How and when does your practice team liaise with hospice and palliative care services?

6) After death processes and bereavement Care

- What are your practice processes for ensuring that the MCCD is completed and ME informed?
- What are your practice arrangements for follow-up and support of the bereaved?

7) Action points for the practice team.

8) Suggestions to feed back to local services and commissioners

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