



ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND HOSPICE

COMMUNITY PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE



Information for Patients & Relatives

Direct Line: 0141 435 7008 (Susan Bradley)
Direct Line: 0141 435 7009 (June Boyd)
Direct Line: 0141 435 7048 (Isabella McCallum)
Out of Hours: 0141 435 7011 (Ward)
Reception: 0141 952 1141

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice Community Palliative Care Service offers support and advice to patients and families (in their own homes) who are experiencing a progressive life-threatening illness. The areas covered by the service are G3, G11, G12, G13, G14, G15, G60, G62, G81 and parts of G20.

The Community Palliative Care Services is a nurse-led service which complements the care given by the patient's own doctor, district nurse and other healthcare professionals. The Community Palliative Care Nurses who work within the service are experienced registered general nurses with specialist knowledge and expertise in palliative care. The nurses have the support of Hospice medical staff and other members of the Hospice multi-professional team.

Philosophy of Care - The provision of care from the Community Palliative Care Service takes account of the uniqueness of the individual and their culture, is patient centred and designed to meet the changing and complex needs of patients and carers. A multi-professional and collaborative team approach to delivering care is undertaken. Clinical practice is evidence based, drawing on official guidelines, protocols, Hospice policies and QIS requirements.

Criteria for Referral

- The patient has consented to the referral
- The patient has a progressive, life-threatening illness requiring complex symptom management
- The patient/carer requires support to adjust to the diagnosis of a progressive, life-threatening illness
- Health Care Professionals caring for the patient/carer require specialist advice and support

Referral to the Service - Referrals are accepted from Health Care Professionals using the Hospice referral form, provided the patient has given their consent and has palliative care needs. Patients may self-refer but their General Practitioner must be in agreement and complete the Hospice referral form. The referrer will be contacted within two working days of receiving the referral as acknowledgement of its receipt.

The referral will be discussed with the multi-professional team before being accepted to the service. Once accepted, the Community Palliative Care Nurse will contact the patient within two working days and offer a home visit within five working days of acceptance of the referral.

Following assessment, a plan of care will be developed and will be regularly reviewed by you and your named Community Palliative Care Nurse. An assessment of your relative/carer needs may also be undertaken if required. Contact with your relative/carer will only be with your agreement, except in circumstances where there are concerns over your personal safety.

Frequency of Home Visits - The Community Palliative Care Nurse's level of involvement depends on the complexity of the patient/relative/carer's needs. There are four levels of intervention:

Level 1 Telephone Advice

Level 2 A single visit made alone or with the referring Health Care Professional

Level 3 Short term interventions until the problem or issue is resolved

Level 4 Regular assessment and review of ongoing complex issues

Discharge Policy - The length of time the patient remains within the service will vary according to the patient/family/carer's needs. Patients may be discharged from the service if:

- Following initial assessment, they do not meet the criteria
- The patient or carer refuses the service at the initial assessment or any time thereafter
- The patient's condition becomes stable or the patient and carer issues are improved or resolved
- The needs of the patient and carer are more appropriately met by other Hospice, Community or Social services.

When a patient is discharged from the service, their General Practitioner is informed in writing. Re-admission to the service is by self-referral if within six months of discharge date or referral from a Health Care Professional

How You Can Help Us Improve Our Service

We welcome comments regarding the service we provide and will use them to help improve our service. If you have any comments or are unhappy with the service, please let us know. We can put it right. Please telephone or write to:

Director of Clinical Services
St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
East Barns Street
Clydebank
G81 1EG
Tel: 0141 435 7025

Should you complain, we will:

- Reply to your complaint within seven working days of receiving it
- Inform you if we cannot deal fully with your complaint within seven working days, explaining why and indicating when you may expect a full reply.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your complaint, you can telephone or write to the Hospice Administrator or Sister Rita, Chief Executive, at the address above.

We will regularly ask patients, relatives and carers what they think of our service by completing our user satisfaction questionnaire, and act on what they tell us.

Regulation of Care

If you are dissatisfied with the Community Palliative Care Service, you may complain directly to: Christine Hill, Executive Office Business Manager, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Gyle Square, South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9EB

Phone 0131 275 6000 (reception)
Email christine.hill2@nhs.net

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