



St Margaret of Scotland Hospice

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (Heart & Lung Resuscitation)



Some helpful information

Our team at the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice are committed to providing care that is of the highest standard and meets your individual needs. This means that the focus of our care is on you as a person, not the illness you are living with.

We recognise this may be a very difficult time for you and those who care for you and that you may have had decisions to make relating to your illness. These decisions may have been difficult and in some ways life changing, especially if they have involved starting and stopping active or curative treatment.

Everyone has the right to refuse medical treatment that is offered to them. Likewise there are some forms of medical treatment that are not appropriate for every person.

A medical treatment that is *not* appropriate for every person is Cardio (heart) Pulmonary (lung) Resuscitation.

In this booklet we would like to help you understand who would be offered this medical treatment and who would not. Treatment would only be offered if it had a proven benefit and not subject you to greater burden.

What is CPR?

CPR is Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation.

This involves heart massage and artificial respiration. If appropriate CPR is commenced immediately following unexpected collapse.

Unexpected collapse can happen if your heart develops an abnormal rhythm or stops beating. If you have been diagnosed with heart disease of any form, or have collapsed unexpectedly because of this in the past, please inform one of the Hospice Clinical Team as soon as possible prior to attending the Edwina Bradley Day Hospice or being admitted to the Specialist Palliative Care Centre - St Joseph's Ward. This will ensure we have opportunity to discuss the management of such an event with you, if it were to happen whilst you were being cared for by us.

CPR has nothing to do with giving food, fluids, antibiotics, pain-relieving drugs or any treatment needed for your comfort. The need for these will depend on your symptoms or problems at the time. You can, of course, talk to the nurses or doctors about the treatments

you wish to receive at any point during your involvement with the Hospice.

For people living with an irreversible condition or in-curable illness in its advanced stage, it is well recognised that CPR offers no benefit or guarantee that your life will be saved or that you would have an acceptable quality of life following such an event. If you have advanced disease and feel that CPR is a medical treatment you would want us to consider, we will discuss the implications of this with you.

Who would discuss this with me?

- ✎ If you are at home this would be one of the Community Specialist Palliative Care Team or your GP
- ✎ If you attend the Edwina Bradley Day Hospice, this would be one of the Day Hospice Team.
- ✎ If you are staying in the Hospice as an In-Patient, this would hopefully have been discussed with you by your GP or Hospital Consultant prior to admission. If not, it will be discussed with you at the time of admission, to ensure you are fully aware of your plan of care throughout your stay.

This booklet would be referred to throughout those discussions and conversations.

For individuals who have a reversible condition or who **do not** have a terminal illness in its advanced stages and for whom CPR may be beneficial, it is important to us you are aware of the facilities we have available within the Hospice.

Is the Hospice the same as a Hospital?

If you have a reversible condition or **do not** have a terminal illness in its advanced stages and wished CPR it is important that you are aware the Hospice is **not** the same as a Hospital.

We do not have emergency lifesaving equipment; therefore we cannot provide CPR treatment beyond a basic 'first aid' level. This means if you collapse due to your heart or you breathing stopping (if this happened you would be unconscious) we will commence the basic lifesaving technique and call 999 to have you transferred to one of the local hospitals such as the Western Infirmary, Glasgow Royal Infirmary or the new South Glasgow Hospital, where you

will be cared for in the Accident & Emergency department.

What will happen to me if I do not receive CPR treatment?

If you do not receive CPR treatment we will manage any symptoms you may experience to ensure your dignity, peace and comfort. We will ensure you are cared for to the highest standard and we will support you, your family or those who care for you.

Can I change my decision?

If you have an irreversible condition or a terminal illness in advanced stages, CPR will not have been offered. However if a decision has been made that CPR would be beneficial to you, you can decide you do not wish CPR

At any time we welcome the opportunity to explore decisions you have considered or made about your future. These decisions can change according to how you feel either physically or emotionally, so discussion to ensure your immediate needs are explored, and met, is vital.

What happens after a decision has been made?

- ✎ The decision reached is important and, with your permission, will be communicated to other team members both within and out-with the Hospice. Therefore the decision will be documented in your notes and will be shared with your GP and other Health and Social Care Professionals involved in your care.
- ✎ The decision made either by you or by the Medical Team will remain confidential until you provide consent for this to be shared with your family or the person acting on your behalf. Your family cannot make this decision for you; therefore we would facilitate a meeting on your behalf to support you and them to the best of our ability.

Further Information/comments

If you have any comments or questions, we welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you.

You can contact one of the Hospice Clinical Team or the Senior Nurse Manager on duty by calling 0141 952 1141.



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