

### **When I am discharged will I still have contact with the Hospice?**

A Palliative Care Specialist Nurse will keep in contact and visit you if necessary. You also still have access to other services such as day Hospice, counselling, complementary therapies or chaplaincy. The Social work team will be monitoring how things are and get involved should there be a problem.

### **Once I am discharged will I be able to return to the Hospice?**

We work closely with your GP and multi disciplinary team in the community in an effort to manage you at home or within the nursing home you are in. If you require specialist palliative care that cannot be given at home or in the nursing home then you will be assessed to see if the Hospice is the best place.

### **Do I have to pay for services from the Hospice?**

No, all services offered at the hospice are free. As a charity we are dependent on the local community for financial support. If you would like to make a donation to the Hospice please ask a member of staff or look on our website. We receive just 16% of our funding from the NHS.

If you would like to discuss the issues mentioned in this leaflets please ask to speak to: -



Claire Delaney  
Patient and Family Services Team Manager



Karen Williams  
Both are based here at the Hospice on the main number  
01 252 729400

Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice



## **How we plan discharges**



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**The purpose of this leaflet is to answer questions frequently asked about how we plan discharges**

### **Why are patients admitted to the hospice?**

There are four main reasons for you to be admitted to the Hospice: -

1. Symptom management – that is to assess your symptoms and medication and help you manage them.
2. Respite care
3. Rehabilitation
4. End of life care

### **How long will I stay if I am admitted for symptom management?**

There is no typical length of stay. Each patient's needs are individually assessed.

We will discuss this with you early in your admission.

### **When my symptoms are managed how soon before I leave the Hospice?**

The Hospice care team will discuss this with you. By starting to plan your discharge early we hope to be able to organise care, equipment and any additional services you may require for going home. Then everything is ready when you're discharged home.

### **Can I stay at the Hospice long term?**

The Hospice is an acute unit and for that reason stays for symptom management are usually time limited. If your condition changes the care team will review this.

### **How will I know if I can manage at home?**

We will work with you to look at this. The Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist will talk with you about any concerns and may use the therapy room to assess your abilities. From there we will consider what equipment and services may make it possible for you to return home.



### **What if I cannot maintain my independence at home?**

There may be services that you can access in order to manage at home. The Social Work team at the Hospice will help you look at the different options, for example homecare or a sitting service.

### **What if I cannot manage at home?**

The Social Work team will discuss this with you and your family. Options may include nursing homes. They will discuss whether or not there are any cost implications.

### **If I need a nursing home what do I need to do?**

Don't worry the Social Work team will help you with this.

In order to see if you are eligible for funding the Hospice will complete paperwork that will go to the relevant department. We will keep you informed about this. Depending on the outcome of the assessment the Social Work team will work with you and your family to find a suitable home in the area of your choice. Nursing homes vacancies are not in huge supply but we will try our best.

Once you have been given nursing homes to view (and this may only be one or two) we would need your family to view and make a decision within 5 working days. If you and your family do not like any of the homes you may have to consider moving to one in the interim until you can find one you want.

### **How much are nursing homes and will I have to pay?**

We will talk to you about this. It may be we can access NHS funding or ask Social Services to assess you.

There are limits on what the NHS or Social Services will pay and the nursing homes you are asked to visit will be within those limits.

You are entitled to go to other nursing homes but you would have to fund that yourself.