

Palliative Care Newsletter

Spring 2014

What's new?

The new Individualised Care Plan for the Last Days of Life was launched trustwide on 5th March. This replaces the old 'ICP' that the trust had used for several years. The principles of the new ICP are the same- symptom control & comfort for the patient, and excellent support for their family. The new document is used in conjunction with a dedicated Comfort Round for the Last Days of Life, which is kept in the bedside folder and completed by both RNs & HCAs. This move to a more holistic, individualised approach was in response to the 'More Care, Less Pathway' report into End of Life Care across the UK. The ICP is available on the HUB.

The new Cancer of Unknown Primary Service was launched on 11th February. Katy Low is one of only two 'CUP' CNSs in the UK, providing expert advice and support to patients with a CUP diagnosis. Previously such patients were often transferred between multiple specialities as they had no clear 'primary' cancer. With a designated CNS, patients now have a keyworker and clear point of contact. Katy can be contacted on x1265.

All wards have now been allocated a 'link' Macmillan nurse in the palliative care team. The link nurse will work with wards to deliver any training and education needed, on any aspect of palliative or end of life care. If you can think of anything you would like more information on, or you would like any 'bitesize teaching' for your ward, contact your link nurse. Patient referrals will still be made in the usual way.



Have you made
the switch?

Dates for the diary

9th May
Palliative Link Nurse meeting-
12.30-14.30 in the Postgrad

12th-18th May
Dying Matters Week

3rd June
'What do I say?' study day - call
to book a place

25th June
End of Life Care study day- Call
to book a place

Fundraising



Members of the team spent the 8th-9th March fundraising in partnership with Poundland. £250 was raised for Macmillan. If you are interested in getting involved with any fundraising, call the team on x4740



The Palliative Care Team and Acute Oncology Service are available 7 days a week, 9-5. The Acute Oncology Service is available to assess any patient presenting with acute symptoms relating to their cancer. Contact x7208 (dect phone).

The Palliative Care Team will see any patient with a life limiting illness (**not just cancer**) who you feel you need advice / support with. Contact x4740.

Meet your Macmillan nursing team



Karen Munro Team Leader

Karen has worked in the team for 10 years and made the transition to team leader in 2012. She has overseen many changes within the team and is passionate about driving end of life care forward in the trust.

Dr O'Doherty

Consultant in Palliative Medicine

Dr Ashworth

Registrar in Palliative Medicine



Julie Dent MacMillan CNS

Julie joined the team in March 2013. With a wide range of experience, she returned to the acute setting after working as advanced community nurse, supporting staff in delivering End of Life Care. She is champion for Dementia and Frailty.

Link wards: Linford, Bulphan, James McKenzie & Lionel Cosins

Katy Low

CUP CNS

Donna Pieper

Lead Counsellor



Sarah Folan MacMillan CNS

Sarah joined the team in April 2013. She has a passion for respiratory nursing, and prior to joining the team was Ward Sister on Florence Nightingale Ward, and spent time as a Lung Cancer CNS. She is champion for respiratory care & MND.

Link wards: M.Warren, F.Nightingale, Osler & Burstead

Sarah Bunce

MacMillan Counsellor

Chris Hutchings

Team Secretary



Emma Spicer MacMillan CNS

Emma joined the team in July 2013. She is passionate about all aspects of Palliative & End of Life Care, and prior to joining the team she was Ward Sister on Orsett Ward. She is the educational lead in the team, and is the champion for education & training.

Link wards: A&E, AMU, ITU, Short Stay, Laindon & Pasteur



Fiona Shukru MacMillan CNS

Fiona joined the team in August 2012. She is an established face in the trust, having been Ward Sister on Elizabeth Fry for 12 years. With her extensive renal experience, she has a special interest in renal palliative care, and champions this within the team.

Link wards: Orsett, E. Fry, Elsdon, Edith Cavell & W. Harvey



Clare McGuire MacMillan CNS

Clare joined the team in 2013. Her background includes A&E, neurosurgery, trauma, and then 11 years on SRU where she worked as Nurse Practitioner and Ward Sister. Clare is the lead for the Acute Oncology Service in the team, and also runs the quarterly link nurse meetings.

Link wards: SRU, Katherine Monk, Lister & Kingswood

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I've learned that people will forget what you said, forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel

Dr Seuss

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