

# Rapid Discharge Plan

Information for relatives / carers



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The doctors and nurses will have explained to you that there has been a change in your relative or friend's condition. They believe that the person you care about may be in the last hours or days of life.

Either your relative or friend has expressed a wish to die at home, or you as a family member / friend have expressed a wish to care for them at home. We understand that it is a difficult time and staff will support and work with you to try to fulfill these wishes.

## Things to consider before discharge can take place

- What is important to you and to your relative or friend?
- Do you have any concerns and/or expectations?
- What level of care and support will be provided by family or friends?
- What level of care and support are you expecting from the doctors and nurses?
- Will special equipment be needed?
- What medication will be needed?
- Once all the concerns/expectations have been considered then we will aim to transfer your relative or friend home the same day or within 24 hours wherever possible

## What happens now?

The ward doctors and nurses will review your relatives or friend's needs and involve the patient pathway manager and palliative care team who will help the ward nurses plan care at home:

- This assessment may highlight the need for special equipment, for example a hospital bed and an appropriate mattress. This will be arranged but may not always be available on the day of discharge. A relative or friend may be asked to collect equipment and take this to the discharge address
- If the person requires oxygen this will be arranged and delivered to the discharge address
- Medication may be needed at home and will be sent home with your relative / friend from the hospital. This may include injectable medicines or medication given through a syringe pump - this will be explained to you before discharge
- You will have support from district nurses, GP, community palliative care team and other support services, as appropriate. The needs of the person will be assessed at home and appropriate visits arranged, however, a nurse will not be able to stay with you all the time.

If extra doses of injectable medicines are needed, district nurses will come out and give these as soon as possible though this may not be straight away

- An ambulance will be arranged for your relative / friend's discharge home. Although we cannot give a specific time for the ambulance to arrive, this should normally be within 2-4 hours of the ambulance being booked. We can arrange for you and one other person to travel in the ambulance, if you would like to do this please inform the ward nurses

## Are there any risks involved in my relative going home?

There are occasions when a person thought to be dying lives longer than expected and times when a person deteriorates and dies sooner than expected.

Despite all our best intentions your relative or friends condition may change rapidly and we may be unable to go ahead with this planned discharge.

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There is also a risk that if your relative or friend's condition changes suddenly, they may die during the journey home, and this will be discussed with you before discharge.

When death is expected a form called "Statement of Intent" may be completed by a hospital doctor to indicate that they will be available on the next working day to issue a 'medical certificate of cause of death' (MCCD), a legal document required to register a death. If a statement of intent has not been completed, the police and/or the coroner may be contacted and this is normal practice.

With a statement of intent in place and with agreement from ambulance staff and yourself, your relative or friend could still continue the journey home even if they should die during the journey.

Without a completed statement of intent in place, your relative or friend would be taken to the mortuary at Salford Royal if they died on the journey home.

If your relative or friend dies at home you can contact district nurses and they will respond as soon as possible to offer care and support and also to explain the next steps.

## Patients who are discharged to an address outside of Salford

In these circumstances the following may apply:

- If a CME T34 syringe pump is in use it may be discontinued prior to discharge and arrangements made for district nurses to reconnect a syringe pump at home. Your relative or friend will be given medication to ensure a safe and comfortable journey

### District Nurses

Daytime

 .....

Evening / Overnight / Weekend Bank Holiday

 .....

### Ward contact details

Ward

 .....

### Patient Pathway Manager

 .....

### Hospital Palliative Care Team

Name

 .....

### GP Surgery

Name .....

 .....

### GP out of hours service available

Times .....

 .....

### Community Palliative Care Team

 .....

### Other

 .....

## What is important to me/our family?

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.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Providing good care for your relative or friend is important to us. Please speak to the doctors or nurses if there are any questions that occur to you, no matter how insignificant you think they may be. We are here to support you at this difficult time.**

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In accordance with the Equality Act we will make 'reasonable adjustments' to enable individuals with disabilities, to access this treatment / service.

**If you need this interpreting please telephone**

Polish

Jeżeli potrzebne jest Państwu to tłumaczenie, proszę zadzwonić pod numer.

Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس ترجمانی کی ضرورت ہے تو مہربانی کر کے فون کریں۔

Arabic

إذا كنتم بحاجة الى تفسير او ترجمة هذا الرجاء الاتصال

Chinese

如果需要翻译，请拨打电话

Farsi

اگر به ترجمه این نیاز دارید ، لطفاً تلفن کنید

**☎ 0161 206 0224**

**Email: InterpretationandTrans@srft.nhs.uk**

**Salford Royal operates a smoke-free policy.**

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Hospital Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 0161 206 1779

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