Discharge for Patients with Palliative and/or End of Life Care Needs



HIVE smart phrase:

When planning a discharge for a patient who has palliative care needs or is at the end of life, please consider whether the following are appropriate:

Direction to administer forms for district nurse administration of subcutaneous medications. This may be for a continuous subcutaneous infusion via a syringe pump or for medications required on a PRN basis. These can be found: /content/hospitals-mcs/clinical-scientific-services/pharmacy-1/Forms

Infusions- Ensure syringe pump is prescribed on TTO (if appropriate) and a diluent for medications is also prescribed and dispensed. Tip sheet for completion HIVE Press F1. Doctor Learning Home > Inpatient Clinician Guides > Ordering and Prescribing > Order a Syringe Pump (page 5). Remember to also complete a direction to administer form for the syringe pump

Statement of Intent. Consider if a statement of intent might be needed if the patient is at risk of dying before a GP can visit at home (e.g. for OOH discharges). Access this through discharge tab > communications > search letter template "MFT IP Hospital Statement of Intent". Tip sheet for completion HIVE Press F1. Doctor Learning Home > Documentation > Hospital Statement of Intent Documentation

Community referrals. Ward team to ensure a District Nurse referral completed on discharge. Please also ensure a referral is completed to the Community Palliative Care Team.

Home oxygen. Contact COPD Team on ext 66035 if required.

Anticipatory medications. Consider only if the patient is approaching the last days of life. Guidance on prescribing available from Palliative Care Team Ext 68958/ vocera "Palliative Care Co-ordinator" and on our intranet via: MFT Intranet. Remember to also complete a direction to administer form for these medications including a diluent.

ReSPECT form. Send a printed copy with a wet signature in the DNACPR box for transfer home.

GP handover. Ward team to provide verbal handover to patient's GP.

Emergency contacts. Ensure good communication with the patient/ family regarding discharge and that they have community telephone contact details and aware of who to contact for support.