

Palliative Care Team Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION 2015

Welcome to our July newsletter. We hope you find this informative, if you have any comments or ideas for future editions, please contact samantha.hobson@wsh.nhs.uk

Team Update

As many of you may know, Dr Rosemary Wade, our Palliative Medicine Consultant left the Trust in May this year. She continues her role at Addenbrookes's hospital and we wish her well.

Rosemary is a highly regarded colleague who worked tirelessly to raise the profile of palliative and end of life care throughout the Trust and we thank her for her 12 years of dedicated work.

Congratulations to Liz Eagles and Sarah Ryan who are now non medical independent/supplementary prescribers.



During the interim time, before a new consultant is in post, we welcome Dr Sarah Mollart, Palliative Medicine Consultant, St Nicholas Hospice Care.

Sarah is currently covering 2 clinical sessions a week in the Trust and will be working with the palliative

care nurses and seeing patients on the wards.

Referrals to the team remain the same and out of hours advice can be obtained through hospital switch board.



Sarah Ryan and Liz Eagles

One Chance To Get it Right. “Last Days of Life” in Critical Care

We have asked Helen Whiting, Senior Staff Nurse, to write a piece about the excellent End of Life Care work that is happening in Critical Care. Helen is one of our valued End of Life Care Champions, we commend Helen and her colleagues hard work and commitment in developing this work. Well done !

Critical Care Unit Changing from Liverpool Care Pathway Documentation to Last Days

In July 2014 our hospital ceased the use of the Liverpool Care Pathway documentation therefore new updated practice was required. In Critical Care a group was formed with a Consultant Intensivist and Nurse Champions who had an interest in palliative care to review and change documentation.

One of the main changes was our computerised, paperless system Metavision; where all observations and documentation for the patients are recorded. As our patients have many complex needs, various screen pages are used for each of our critically ill patients systems, for example, respiratory, cardiovascular and renal observations. Doctor forms were also changed to ensure continued safe practice and that check systems were in place.

When last days care is needed the nurses now only have one screen to use on Metavision. This ensures that care is changed to palliative care only and specific for that patient. On the last days screen page two hourly observations are documented to ensure all care is given to a high standard and if medication is given, such as to alleviate distress, the effect of the medication is documented.

Family involvement and updates are offered and documented. To facilitate documentation a template can be used specific for palliative care when writing the nurses notes. Quick access tabs at the bottom screen are available which include hospital policies and a direct link to the Pink Book End of Life Care section.

The shift nurse looking after the patient completes a different checklist to other patients. This includes checking that medical forms are completed, family are fully updated, the religious needs are met and unnecessary equipment is removed from the bed space.

The response from the staff has been positive since implementation and has helped focus the care towards palliative, in what is a highly technical environment.

Education and Training

Due to the implementation of e-Care over the coming months, we have cancelled the following training:

Verification of Expected Death Workshop Tuesday 06 October 2015

Syringe Pump Workshop Tuesday 20 October 2015

Last Days of Life Study Day Tuesday 10 November 2015

End of Life Champions Study Day Thursday 26th November 2015

We will advertise 2016 training soon.