

# Specialist Palliative Care Services in Gloucestershire

## Introduction

This leaflet explains the structure and support offered by the Specialist Palliative Care team within Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

## What is Specialist Palliative Care?

Specialist Palliative Care aims to support patients and their families with potentially life threatening illnesses to achieve the best possible quality of life. The support offered might include: • Helping you to live as actively as possible, taking account of your emotional, social and spiritual needs, alongside your physical ones • Supporting you and your family in coping with your illness and the choices you wish to make • Providing good relief from pain and other symptoms.

## How does the Specialist Palliative Care Team work?

The Specialist Palliative Care Team is made up of a variety of professionals including doctors, specialist nurses and occupational therapists who have undergone specialist training. There are teams based both within the community and in each of the hospitals. The team help with the management of complex problems particularly when an existing plan does not seem to be working.

A Specialist Palliative Care Multidisciplinary Team meeting takes place every week to discuss progress of individual patient's care and treatment options. Patients will be informed of any discussions about them that take place during this meeting.

## What help is available?

- Medical and nursing advice, for example relief of pain and other symptoms
- Providing information about the illness and possible treatments

Reference No.

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Department

Palliative Care

Review due

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## Patient Information

- Financial advice about benefits and grants
- Practical help with advice about useful equipment
- Advice and help with discharge from hospital
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Care for carers such as ongoing support for family or carers
- Providing information about other relevant agencies.

### Who provides this help?

These services are provided by a wide variety of people. Much of your care will be provided by your GP and district nurse whilst you are at home and by your hospital consultant and ward staff when you are in hospital. The Specialist Palliative Care Services team work alongside GP and district nurses in providing support for you and your family.

### Members of the team include:

- Consultants in palliative medicine
- Medical staff
- Specialist nurses
- Specialist social worker
- Clinical psychologists
- Occupational therapists
- Department of Spiritual Care
- Complementary therapists
- Hospice and day hospices
- Community hospitals.

### Contact information

If you or your family have any questions or concerns then please contact a member of the team on the number below.

#### **Community Specialist Palliative Care (Macmillan) Team**

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Tel: 0300 4225 370 Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

#### **Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Teams**

Cheltenham General Hospital  
Tel: 0300 422 3447

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital  
Tel: 0300 422 5179

**Patient  
Information****Hospices and Day Care****Sue Ryder Care**

Leckhampton Court Hospice  
Cheltenham  
Tel: 01242 230 199

**Longfield Hospice**

Minchinhampton  
Stroud Tel: 01453 886 868

**Great Oaks Hospice**

Coleford  
Tel: 01594 811 910

**Further information****FOCUS Cancer Information and Support Centre**

Cheltenham General Hospital  
Tel: 0300 4224 414

The FOCUS Cancer Information and Support Centre is located in the Oncology Department at Cheltenham General Hospital and is open Monday to Friday between 10:00am to 5:00pm. Please drop in for a chat and advice on how to access other services.

Complementary Therapies for patients and carers are available from qualified volunteers. 'Look Good... Feel Better' beauty workshops are held monthly and there is access to counselling and support groups locally and nationally.

**Maggie's Centre**

The Lodge  
Cheltenham General Hospital  
College Baths Road  
Cheltenham  
GL53 7QB  
Tel: 01242 250 611  
Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

The Maggie's Centre provide information and support to address every aspect of living with cancer from the practicalities of claiming benefits to the physical and emotional effects of cancer.

**Patient  
Information**

**Charlie's Centre**

Unit 2  
Edison Close  
Venture Business Centre  
Madleaze Road  
Gloucester  
GL1 5SL

Website: [www.charlies.org.uk](http://www.charlies.org.uk)

1st Wed of each month, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Supporting people with and post cancer, families and carers.

**Macmillan Cancer Support**

Website: [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

**Cancer Research UK**

Website: [www.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org)

**Gloucester Palliative Care Team**

Website: [www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/en/Wards-and-Departments/Departments/Palliative-Medicine/](http://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/en/Wards-and-Departments/Departments/Palliative-Medicine/)

A variety of other websites are available that focus on specific cancers and other illnesses.

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Help provide extra care & equipment on the ward of your choice by sending a donation payable to 'Chelt & Glos Hospitals Charity' to the Charity Office, Cheltenham General Hospital, GL53 7AN  
Tel: 0300 422 3231  
[www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/charity](http://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/charity)