

Overgate Hospice are excited to be able to offer this new initiative and we look forward to working with you to better meet the needs of our patients and families in Calderdale.



For more information please contact:

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Registered Charity Number 511619

**INFORMATION FOR  
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

**NURSE LED CARE  
AT OVERGATE HOSPICE**

# THE HOSPICE

Overgate Hospice has been providing services for patients with life-limiting illness in Calderdale since 1981. We are a registered charity and a large proportion of our care provision (around 70%) is funded by charitable giving.

Overgate Hospice is an adult hospice providing specialist palliative and end of life care for people in Calderdale who have an advanced, progressive and life-limiting illness. We care for the whole person to give them the best quality of life and provide support for their families and carers.

Currently referrals to Overgate Hospice are made when a person has complex specialist palliative care needs requiring Inpatient admission, assessment and management. However, it is widely recognised that there is a need for non-complex palliative care at end of life.

Overgate Hospice, through the **Nurse Led Care** initiative, aims to widen their accessibility by extending the eligibility criteria to allow patients with non-complex needs to choose the Hospice as their preferred place of death. To achieve this, the objectives of the Nurse Led Care initiative are as follows:

- To achieve the patient's preferred place of death
- To improve the quality of end of life care as received by the patient and their family
- To reduce in-hospital deaths
- To maximise the use of Inpatient Unit (IPU) Hospice beds
- To develop the knowledge and skills of the nursing staff and advance nurse led provision at Overgate.

Overgate Hospice currently has twelve Inpatient beds and we are intending that two of these will be assigned for Nurse Led end of life patients. This means that patients (and families) needs will be assessed and managed by a team of nurses with the appropriate experience, knowledge and advanced skills.

Healthcare professionals will be able to refer end of life patients for consideration of admission into these Nurse Led beds.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL:

- ✓ The patient is over 18 years old
- ✓ The patient is dying, with a prognosis of days to a short number of weeks (up to three weeks).
- ✓ The patient (if appropriate) and carers are aware of the prognosis and the purpose for admission has been discussed.
- ✓ The patient will have made the decision to be admitted with capacity. If it is felt that the patient may lack capacity an appropriate Mental Capacity Assessment will be carried out and a Best Interest Decision will have been made and documented regarding preferred place of care/death prior to referral.
- ✓ DNACPR has been discussed and is in place (must accompany patient on transfer).
- ✓ Patients referred to a Nurse Led bed should not be requiring medical assessment or regular medical intervention i.e. they should be medically stable for discharge if in hospital.
- ✓ The patient does not have specialist palliative care needs but chooses the Hospice as preferred place of death.
- ✓ The patient (where appropriate) and their carers understand and are agreeable to a Nurse Led approach to care with an emphasis on symptom management and holistic end of life nursing care.
- ✓ Non-essential or inappropriate investigations, interventions and medications have been discontinued in discussion with the patient (where able) and their carers.
- ✓ The patient's GP (Consultant if the patient is in hospital) is aware of the referral and is in agreement with it.

There will be no restrictions for patients with known infections providing reversible causes have been addressed and appropriate management considered by referring staff and providing side room accommodation is available.

## EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Patients with specialist palliative care needs, including those with complex medical or mental health problems requiring input from a medical practitioner, will not be admitted to the Nurse Led beds but they could be referred to an acute bed. **Contact us** for more information.

## MEDICAL TEAM INVOLVEMENT

- The majority of patients admitted into the Nurse Led Beds will have minimal input from medical staff. However all patients will require a brief medical assessment in order to enable later certification of death. This assessment will take place soon after admission.
- It is recognised that in some cases, there may be a change in patient needs/complexity from point of referral to point of admission. Should a patient develop medical problems beyond the scope of the nurse, medical input will be requested. The level of input will depend on the situation and complexity of the problem. The patient may be considered for transfer to a specialist palliative care bed with medical management.

## REFERRAL PROCESS

- Patients will be referred via the existing Overgate Hospice telephone referral line **01422 379151**. The referrer will specify the patient is for consideration of a Nurse Led Bed at the time of referral and details will be taken. A referral form will be completed by the Overgate team during this telephone discussion.
- Patients referred will require review and assessment by the Overgate Nurse Led bed team or a member of the Specialist Palliative Care Team (Community or Hospital if already involved with the patient), before any offer of Hospice admission is made, to ensure that the most appropriate patients are identified for the end of life Nurse Led beds.
- Patient will be registered on SystmOne as per Overgate procedures.

## ADMISSION TIMES

Admission is available Monday to Friday daytime, subject to Non-Medical Prescriber's availability.

## ASSESSMENT & REVIEW OF PATIENTS

- New patients will undergo a holistic assessment of their needs (including carer assessment) on admission and an individualised care plan will be developed.
- Patients will receive daily assessment and review by the Nurse Led team. Out of hours and weekends, the planned care will be delivered by the IPU nursing team (and medical team if prescribing required).
- Patients will be discussed with the MDT at the daily handover meeting and at a weekly Clinical Review meeting with Overgate multidisciplinary team members.

## HOLISTIC CARE

Patients and families will be able to access Overgate's multidisciplinary services to ensure a holistic approach to their care.

These services include:

- Spiritual Care
- Social Work
- Complementary Therapies
- Psychological Support
- Bereavement Support



**TO REFER PLEASE CALL 01422 379151**