

By Email:

STP/ICS Leaders

NHS England & Improvement
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

1st April 2020

Dear STP/ICS Accountable Officers,

For cascade: Primary Care Networks; General Practice; Community Providers; Hospices

Re: Advanced Care Planning-Personalised Approach-COVID-19 Pandemic:

Guide to End of Life Care symptom control when a person is dying from COVID19 care for General Practice Teams, RCGP and the Association for Palliative Medicine

You may have already seen the joint statement by the BMA, CQC, RCGP, Care Provider Alliance (published 20 March 2020) which highlights the importance of a personalised approach when putting advance care plans (ACPs) in place, for older people and those who are frail or have serious pre-existing medical conditions.

All the COVID-19 evidence shows that more people than usual will become ill and may deteriorate quickly. This makes it particularly important to ensure that individuals have ACPs in place as ACPs allow for individualised decisions about whether it is appropriate to consider managing deterioration in the existing care setting, rather than suggesting conveyance to hospital.

We are aware that this urgent work will require already over stretched, trained colleagues, to hold difficult and sensitive conversations, in order to create records of ACPs, which are accessible to all.

Many of you may have already started this work and for those who have not, please use the coming days to do as much of this work as possible.

We would also like to draw your attention to some relevant useful guidance:

- a) A guide to Community Palliative, End of Life Care and bereavement Care in Covid-19 pandemic, prepared by the RCGP and Association for Palliative Medicine March 2020.

The clinical guideline can be found following the link

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk>

The clinical guideline will include working collaboratively with your local community nursing teams, hospices, care homes and pharmacy staff, please do share and discuss with them, so that we can work collectively in supporting both patients and families at this difficult time.

b) The E- learning for End Of Life Care for All (e-ELCA) course is available to all staff and can be accessed directly : <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/end-of-life-care/> or via the learning for health (e-LFH) portal <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/604722>. Those without e-LfH Hub account can select View to access the materials.

c) All new updates to learning will be notified via the e-ELCA Twitter: @cmf_elca
Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to you for all you are doing to support the COVID-19 effort.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Vaughan Lewis FRCPCH
South East Regional Medical Director
NHS England & NHS Improvement



Duncan Burton
South East Regional Chief Nurse
NHS England & NHS Improvement

