Referral Criteria to the Rowcroft Community Specialist Palliative Care Multidisciplinary Team

"Palliative care is the active holistic care of patients with advanced progressive illness that is no longer amenable to curative treatment. Management of pain and other symptoms and provision of psychological, social and spiritual support to patients and their families is paramount" (NICE 2004, NCPC 1999)

The Rowcroft Community Specialist Palliative Care Multidisciplinary Team forms part of the in-patient and community services provided by Rowcroft Hospice. The Community Team includes clinical nurse specialists, doctors, social workers, occupational therapists, a physiotherapist, complementary therapists, a music therapist, administration staff, plus additional support from our spiritual care specialist and bereavement support service.

Specialist palliative care input will be episodic or ongoing dependent on need and always working jointly with the patient's primary health and social care teams.

Referral criteria

1. The patient is 18 years of age or above and has consented to the referral.

2. To access our support, the person being referred to Rowcroft is registered with a GP in one of the following areas: Ashburton, Bovey Tracey, Brixham, Buckfastleigh, Dartmouth, Dawlish, Ipplepen, Kingskerswell, Kingsteington, Newton Abbot, Paignton, Teignmouth, Torquay or Totnes (see full list of GP surgeries below)

3. The patient has active, progressive, advanced disease, a limited prognosis with unresolved complex needs that cannot be met by the palliative care approach provided by other professionals. These needs may be physical, psychological, social or spiritual and the focus of care is on quality of life. Examples may include:

   • Potentially fatal conditions where treatment has changed from curative to palliative intent such as cancer

   • Non-malignant conditions such as end-stage COPD or Heart Failure, end stage Renal Failure, Motor Neurone Disease, end-stage Dementia or Parkinson's disease

   • Patients with very limited prognosis of weeks/short months with anticipated complex needs • Patients who may benefit from a specialist palliative rehabilitation approach

   • Support for unresolved complex needs of families, children, carers or significant others

   • Ethical issues around treatment decisions and planning for end of life care

The team works closely with Rowcroft's Hospice at Home service: a service for patients with a prognosis of less than two weeks, regardless of diagnosis, who wish to be in their home in the final days of their life. Please call 01803 217620 for further information. If you are uncertain about

whether a referral to our team would be appropriate, please feel free to telephone us on 01803 210811 and talk it through with us.

Full list of referring GP surgeries

- Ashburton: Ashburton Surgery
- Bovey Tracey: Riverside Surgery
- Brixham: Compass House Medical Practice; Mayfield Medical Centre
- Buckfastleigh: Buckfastleigh Medical Centre
- Dartmouth: Dartmouth Medical Centre
- Dawlish: Barton Surgery
- Ipplepen/Kingskerswell: Kingskerswell and Ipplepen Surgery
- Kingsteington: Kingsteington Medical Practice
- Newton Abbot: Albany Surgery; Buckland Surgery; Cricketfield Surgery; Devon Square Surgery
- Paignton: Corner Place Surgery; Old Farm Surgery; Mayfield Medical Centre; Pembroke Medical Centre
- Teignmouth: Channel View Medical Practice; Teign Estuary Medical Group
- Torquay: Brunel Medical Practice; Chelston Hall Medical Practice; Croft Hall Medical Practice; Pembroke Medical Centre; Southover Medical Practice; Chilcote Surgery
- Totnes: Catherine House Surgery; Leatside Surgery