

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, Physiotherapists, Complementary Therapists, Art and Music Therapists, Administration, plus additional support from our Chaplain and Bereavement 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, is registered with a GP in the catchment area served by Rowcroft Hospice and has consented to the referral.
2. 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.