Referral Criteria to the Rowcroft Inpatient Unit

Patients will be offered admission to Rowcroft in patient unit when their specialist palliative care needs cannot be met appropriately in their usual place of residence. All referrals are considered for appropriateness, regardless of the patient's gender, disability, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious belief.

Admission criteria

1. Patients over the age of 18 may be admitted for:

    a) Management of symptoms associated with progressive disease

    b) Care in the last days of life

    c) Assessment and planning of ongoing care; most frequently in patients with complex psychological or social needs.

2. Although there is an open referral policy to the specialist palliative care service, admission to the hospice remains only with agreement of the GP (often arranged through the Community Specialist Palliative Care team) or hospital consultant (usually arranged through the Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team). To access our support, the person being referred to Rowcroft will be 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. Admissions are usually planned in advance although emergency and out of hours admissions can be accepted when a bed is available and circumstances warrant it. Rowcroft is unable to accommodate 'respite' admissions.

Procedure

1. **Routine admissions**
   All requests for routine admissions are considered at a daily admissions meeting. The referral should be made by telephone to the medical secretary (01803 210810), Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

2. **Urgent admissions**
   If an urgent admission is required during office hours, the medical secretary (01803 210810) will consult the appropriate ward doctor or on call consultant for a decision.

3. **Out of hours admissions**
   When admissions are required out of hours the nurse-in-charge at the hospice will contact the on-call doctor to discuss the patient with the referring clinician.

- **Admissions to Rowcroft Hospice from Torbay Hospital**
  The Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team will inform the appropriate GP that a hospital patient has been transferred to Rowcroft Hospice for ongoing care.

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