

# Specialist Palliative Care Nurse



## What is palliative care?

Palliative care is the complete care for a patient with a progressive, life-limiting illness, where a cure is no longer possible. It involves the physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual and social elements of care and extends to the patient's family, and all those that matter most to them.

## What is a Specialist Palliative Care Nurse?

We are registered general nurses who work for Rowcroft Hospice in the community.

We offer specialist advice and support, otherwise known as palliative care, for patients with progressive, life-limiting illnesses.

We have qualifications and experience within this field and regularly undertake professional development.

We work with people in their own homes, nursing, residential homes and community hospitals or we can see people at one of our dedicated outpatient clinics.

We care for people who have complex physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

We support GPs, District Nurses and other healthcare providers that are involved in a patient's care.





*"The team work so positively in providing customised care. This is specialised work that is excellent"*

Quote from patient

## Aims

To provide high quality, up-to-date advice on symptom control.

To maximise patients' independence and quality of life.

To support patients and families in making difficult decisions about their future care.

To liaise closely with a patient's GP, District Nurse and other healthcare provider about their care.

## How do patients access a Specialist Palliative Care Nurse?

New referrals for a specialist palliative care nurse can be made by hospital consultants, specialist nurses, GPs and District Nurses.

Where appropriate we offer periods of care and patients can re-refer themselves back to the service at any point.

## What are the benefits to patients and carers?

- We can provide telephone consultation, home visits or outpatient appointments Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 17.00
- Telephone advice and support seven days a week from 09.00 to 17.00
- Prompt response to patients' needs
- Close working relationships with other healthcare organisations involved in a patient's care
- Referrals to other agencies when appropriate
- Easy access to other Rowcroft services

If you require this information in an alternative format please call 01803 210800