

## NHS England and NHS Innovation Palliative and End of Life Care COVID-19 update - Issue 3



Here is an update of the work we are doing in response to COVID-19 updates, including that undertaken with our partners. We will continue to share information with you regularly via email. If you have any queries relating to any of this content, please contact [england.covid-eolc@nhs.net](mailto:england.covid-eolc@nhs.net)

### Key messages and updates

#### **Clinical guidelines for children and young people with palliative care needs in all care settings**

This new guidance was published on 17 April 2020, alongside the Association for Paediatric Palliative Medicine and is [now available on the NHSE/I website](#)

#### **Hospice funding announcement**

On 16 April 2020 [a letter was sent providing detail](#) of the HMT funding for the hospice sector to support the COVID-19 response.

#### **Hospice grant funding – information session**

On Tuesday 21 April 1-2pm we are hosting a session using Microsoft Teams, to talk through the details of the hospice grant funding. This session is open to CCG commissioners and finance managers to explain how the funding will work and to outline key information and next steps, including time for Q&As. Please email [england.covid-eolc@nhs.net](mailto:england.covid-eolc@nhs.net) with your details and 'Grant funding invite request' in the subject bar.

#### **Share and stay connected!**

We will be holding weekly calls starting Thursday 23 April 2020 to provide an opportunity for commissioners, clinicians, managers and leaders to connect with each other and hear from a national panel about issues relating to COVID-19 and PEOC. The session will take place from 6-7pm. If you would like to receive an invite, please email [england.covid-eolc@nhs.net](mailto:england.covid-eolc@nhs.net) with your details and 'Weekly calls invite request' in the subject bar.

### **Anticipatory medicines at the end of life**

The latest advice and guidance relating to anticipatory medicines was shared in the Primary Care daily bulletin on 8 April 2020 and is also below:

During the COVID-19 emergency, there have been calls for care homes and individual patients be able to keep anticipatory medicines for end of life care to be used when normal supply might not be possible (e.g. out of hours or at the weekend). The decision to place medicines in care homes as anticipatory stock needs to be balanced with the impact of increased demand on the medicines supply chain. We advise that care homes or individual patients should not routinely hold anticipatory medicines stock and stocks should be centralised as much as possible. We are aware that some CCGs have already established local hubs to ensure rapid access to anticipatory medicines. Those that do not already have these arrangements in place should consider setting these up as a matter of urgency. These hubs could be community pharmacy, GP practice, community hospital, acute or other settings where palliative medicines (including controlled drugs) can be safely and legally stored and rapidly released when needed. The CCG Chief Pharmacist and their team are central to this action. CCGs should work with providers to ensure rapid access to end of life medicines for patients

### **Community Health Services standard operating procedure**

This was published on 15 April 2020 and can be [downloaded here](#).

### **Upcoming guidance**

We are working on a number of publications and we hope to be able to share the following with you over the coming weeks:

- Alternative routes to symptom management
- Standard operating procedure for community palliative care services
- Standard operating procedure for children and young people hospice inpatient units
- Standard operating procedure for verification of death in a period of emergency
- Medicines re-use in care homes and hospices
- Information to support unpaid carers looking after someone with palliative or end of life care at home

### **Publications and guidance produced by other organisations**

#### **Joint statement on community-based prescribing for COVID-19 symptoms**

CQC has [issued a joint statement](#) with the General Medical Council (GMC) in response to questions around how recently produced [NICE guidelines](#) align with GMC and MHRA advice about the use of medicines that are unlicensed or outside the terms of their existing license ('off-label').

### **Guidance from the UK Association of Palliative Medicine**

The COVID-19 guidance is regularly updated, so please ensure you are always using the updated link on the [homepage of the APM website](#).

### **Macmillan Courageous Conversations Resources**

[Resources have been developed](#) by Macmillan to support GPs who may be entering into discussions around end of life care with patients and families which will have been made more complex by the current situation. Alongside recordings, there are useful words and phrases; key learning points from these scenarios; and other useful links.

### **COVID EOLC Community Charter**

This jointly produced resource is available [on the RCGP website](#).



### **Reminder of NHSE/I PEoLC guidance published so far**

Attached is a one-page document which shows the guidance published so far.

### **The Personalised Care Group**

Palliative and End of Life Care Team