UHNM Specialist Palliative Care Team (SPCT)

Palliative care aims to improve the quality of life for patients living with a life limiting illness (cancer and non-cancer). We can see patients at any point of their illness, not just at end of their life. We are able to support patients who are still receiving active treatment and early referrals are encouraged. The hospital specialist palliative care team provide a Trust wide service for adults at UHNM (covering both sites).

Reason for Referral

* Pain and symptom control
* Emotional or Spiritual support for patients, relatives and carers
* Provide advice about practical problems relating to illness, including financial and social
* Advice to the MDT on the treatment plan
* Advance care planning
* Complex discharge planning (Please note that this is in an advisory capacity and the ward team remains responsible for the discharge process)
* Assessment for hospice inpatient care on behalf of hospices, e.g. Katharine House Hospice, Douglas Macmillan Hospice
* Care of patients in last days of life

Referral Process

* Referrals may be made by healthcare professionals working at UHNM (e.g. Dr’s, Nurses, Allied Healthcare Professionals) or other organisations (e.g. hospice). Direct referrals from patients and carers are also welcomed
* Staff of UHNM should make specialist palliative care referrals via Ordercomm
* Referrals will be checked regularly throughout the day and prioritised according to need
* If an enquiry is urgent please page a member of the team via switchboard/ Rotawatch
* For any other enquiries please phone the SPCT on 01782 674029
* The SPCT is available from 9am-5pm, 7 days a week at RSUH (N.B. the service at weekends and Bank Holidays is limited)
* The SPCT is available and 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday at County Hospital (with telephone advice available from the RSUH at the weekend)
* Please note that referrals received after 4pm may not be acted on until the next working day