

The Spectrum of Children's Palliative Care Needs

A prognosis based framework for children and young people who have palliative care needs

Children who are likely to have palliative care needs

Diagnoses are likely to fit into one or more of the categories of children requiring palliative care, published by ACT (now Together for Short Lives) www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk

Children who are diagnosed or recognised to have a potentially life shortening (fatal) condition before their 18th birthday.

Survival into adulthood is likely.

Would you be surprised if this child died as a result of this condition or problem?

Children whose death before adulthood (18th birthday) is not unexpected.

May live for many years.

Care needs may be similar to other children who have complex chronic conditions.

Would you be surprised if this child died before adulthood (their 18th birthday)?

Children who have increasing instability or progressive deterioration.

Death is not unexpected in months to years.

Would you be surprised if this child died within the next few months to years?

Children who are critically ill.

Survival is not expected beyond the next few weeks.

Would you be surprised if this child was alive in a few weeks time?

Children who die.

Children who are not expected to have palliative care needs

Children living with significant health needs and/or disability, but whose risk of dying is comparable to that of the general population.

Children who recover and whose risk of dying is comparable to that of the general population.