



The Forum
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Request Date: 15th February 2021

Response Date: 4th March 2021

Dear Mr Cooper

Further to your request to NHS Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), please find below our answers to your questions.

- 1) Do you have a children's palliative care service specification? (Yes/No). If so, please attach a copy to your response to this request.**

We have palliative care service specifications with 2 providers and they in turn link in with other providers to offer a tailored approach to end of life palliative care working in partnership and based on the needs and wishes of the family. Please see a copy of the specification attached to the email.

- 2) Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition and their parents or carers should have opportunities to be involved in developing an advance care plan?**

During admission and both during and after discharge, the service will ensure that the CYP and their family/carer will be involved in all aspects of care planning and management of the care and support delivered.

- 3) Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition should have a named medical specialist who leads and coordinates their care? (Yes/No)**





Community service:

- Providers agree who is the most appropriate professional to lead to coordinate care in the community based on the needs of the child

Inpatient service:

- All services provided by the in-patient unit will be Consultant led (Consultant in Palliative Medicine).
- There is access to a Doctor for assessment and review prior to, during and after admission at any time of day or night as required by that individual

4) Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition and their parents or carers should be given information about emotional and psychological support, including how to access it? (Yes/No)

The inpatient and community service will provide high quality holistic specialist palliative and end of life care enhancing quality of life for CYP nearing the end of their lives.

This care will include :

- Physical care – symptom control, treatment and management
- Psychological care – dealing with the emotional implications of illness, including stress and depression
- Spiritual care – finding hope, comfort and meaning
- Access to web based Macmillan national children's cancer information
- 1:1 counselling sessions and pre bereavement support.
- After death bereavement support to parents/carers and siblings

5) Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition should be





cared for by a multidisciplinary team that includes members of the specialist paediatric palliative care team? (Yes/No)

- The decision regarding the most appropriate setting for care to be delivered should be made by the multi-disciplinary team in discussion with the CYP and their family or carers
- Palliative care and end of life care in conjunction with local hospice services including outreach services and tertiary care providers
- The care delivered makes best use of skill mix within the wider multi-disciplinary team and collaboration to provide a responsive, productive, equitable and cost effective service

6) Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that parents or carers of infants, children and young people approaching the end of life should be offered support for grief and loss when their child is nearing the end of their life and after their death? (Yes/No)

See response to question 4

7) Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people approaching the end of life and being cared for at home should have 24-hour access to both children's nursing care and advice from a consultant in paediatric palliative care? (Yes/No)

Community nursing provision:

- 24 hour nursing at end of life – this care may be delivered via on call telephone support or direct care in the CYP's home, dependent on assessed need. End of life care should be planned in conjunction with other local providers.

Hospice provision:

- Medical assessment and support (including on call support) from Doctors will be delivered where required on a 24/7 basis





- The IPU (in patient unit) will operate on a 24/7 basis with full nursing care cover and medical support to safely and appropriately to meet the needs of CYP in the in-patient unit
- Provide 24/7 on call and visits when required at end of life.

8) Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition and their families should have access regular short breaks for respite? (Yes/No)

Respite is not commissioned directly by the CCG.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
NHS Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group

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Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF.

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