

WAST End of Life Care Pathway

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Project method

Relatives or carers of end of life patients may see a sudden deterioration in the patients condition, they may see increased pain levels, increased agitation or distress, vomiting that won't subside and breathing changes. They panic and want help fast. Often it can be during the night or on a weekend so 999 gets used. The relative or carer may call the G.P. or out of hours G.P. in the first instance, but these calls can still get passed to WAST. Often patients have recorded their wishes for future treatment and place of death to be acted upon at a time when they no longer have capacity to relay such information. WAST will access this information electronically and pass this to the Paramedic on scene.

An education strategy has been designed to give Paramedics the skills to recognise and manage the symptoms. Paramedics will access anticipatory medicines found in the Just in Case box in order that breakthrough symptoms can be managed quickly.

Project results/evaluation

WAST has committed to provide mandatory training in the recognition and management of end of life care to be delivered to every Paramedic in Wales. The process that will allow access to the electronic records for end of life care patients in Wales is currently underway. The pathway is due to go live later this year.

Project area classification

Hospital care		Emergency care	x
GP care		Dementia	
Social care		Learning disability	
Voluntary sector		Other mental health	
Financial services		Palliative care	x
Police		Advance planning, LPAs	
Legal		Commissioning	
Community health care		Training	x
Nursing and care home		For professionals?	x
Acute care	x	For public and service users?	
Chronic care	x		