

Supportive and palliative care team on critical care area

Patient information sheet

We recognise that when someone is sick enough to need to be in critical care, this is likely to be a difficult time for them and their family. We know that there is a lot of medical information to understand and there is often a high level of uncertainty about what the future might hold.

The supportive and palliative care team is here to support patients and their families at this difficult time.

What is supportive and palliative care?

The supportive and palliative care team supports patients at Royal Papworth Hospital who have life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses, including those with long term progressive conditions. Our goal is to support patients and those close to them to achieve and focus on improving quality of life.

Most of our work here is 'supportive' and involves supporting patients and their loved ones when they are struggling with the impact of having serious and/or long-term conditions.

A much smaller part of our role is 'palliative' and does involve us helping to care for those patients who are imminently dying.

Our referrals for patients on critical care are almost always for people who need us in our supportive role.

Who is in the team?

The team consists of a palliative care consultant, a specialist registrar, specialist nurses and a team secretary.

The team work closely with the critical care staff and other members of staff across the hospital, such as psychological services, chaplaincy, physiotherapy, occupational therapists etc.

What does the team do?

The supportive and palliative care team is here as an extra level of support for patients and their families, where we usually focus on helping to provide emotional support as well as helping address social, financial or spiritual problems.

We can see patients and/or their loved ones in the critical care area but we can also support carers by telephone if that is more helpful.

We have a seven day face-to-face service, with staff available between at least 09:00 and 17:00. Phone number 01223 638747.

The critical care team may suggest a referral to supportive and palliative care, which you are welcome to accept or decline. You can also ask for a referral yourself if you feel the need for more support.

Talk to a member of the critical care team for more information or to be referred.

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