

Dear Practice Manager,

This month, several people registered to your practice will finish their end of life journey. Death and dying can be a difficult reality to acknowledge, particularly for a care system that aspires to make people better.

However, with an ageing population and with death rates set to increase, it is something we must confront. By making plans for this inevitable part of life we can help put things in place in order to improve people's experience of death, dying, loss and bereavement.

Advance Care Planning is a vital tool available to patients, carers and primary care teams. This mechanism can help people develop plans with their loved ones and share those plans with your staff, to ensure they receive the right care that is important to them, as they approach the end of their life.

As you well know, every appointment counts, and Advanced Care Planning conversations with clinicians are most effective if patients have *already* started the conversation with the people close to them.

We have co-produced and compassionately curated resources to actively encourage Sheffield citizens, to start planning for their end of life care and to share their plans with GPs and clinicians.

By providing information to patients and their loved ones, and effectively facilitating and recording Advance Care Plans, we can improve people's end of life experiences and reduce the number of appointments required.

This not only impacts the person who is dying, it has huge implications for bereaved people who are left behind. This important part of life can be instrumental in defining relationships with your local community.

If patients, their loved ones and primary care teams are actively involved with Advance Care Planning, people are more likely to access well-coordinated, person centred and dignified care when they die.

The key resource for this campaign is a video that was co-produced with people from Sheffield's Yemini, Pakistani and Roma communities. The video features Sheffield GP Trish Evans and it encourages people to begin having conversations about what matters to them towards the end of their life. The central message being; "*It's never too early to think about the type of care you might want at the end of your life*".

Although working with these communities is an integral part of this campaign, the messages are universal. The video, which can be found on the Compassionate Sheffield website, is dubbed and subtitled in English, Arabic, Urdu, Slovak Romani,

Swahili and Bengali.

We will be actively promoting these resources and Advanced Care Planning amongst traditionally underrepresented communities in Sheffield, in order to help address health inequalities experienced by people during the end of their life. However, the resources and core messages are applicable for everyone.

The supporting resources and video are all available online for you to use, please share amongst your colleagues and with your patients. In this pack, we have also enclosed posters and guidance documents that we hope you find useful.

What can you do?

We are inviting you to please...

- Pin up posters in public spaces within the practice
- Share the 'Guidance for Reception Teams' with reception staff
- Share the 'Guidance for Clinicians' with clinicians (this guidance will also be available on Press Portal)
- Consider whether the template Accurx messages can be used
- Read the FAQs and share with colleagues
- Watch the video (scan QR code below)

If you have any questions or need any guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us at compassionatesheffield@gmail.com.

Warm regards,

Nick Deayton
Compassionate Sheffield Programme Manager

Dr Anne Noble
Lead GP Clinical Advisor for Palliative and End of Life Care Sheffield



Scan QR code to watch the video and access resources, or visit:
www.compassionate-sheffield.co.uk/advanced-care-plan