

Members of the Specialist Palliative Care Team

Core members of the team

Consultant in Palliative Medicine:
Dr Marie Joseph

Macmillan Palliative Clinical Nurse Specialist:
Kirsty Hill

Extended members of the team

Social Worker

Cancer Centre Occupational Therapist

Physiotherapist

Chaplain: Rizwan Rawat (Imam)

Contacting the Specialist Palliative Care Team

During your stay in Mount Vernon Hospital the nurse looking after you or your medical team can contact the Specialist Palliative Care team on your behalf.

You can also leave a message for us on **07825 034413**. We will respond during normal working hours (8.30am–4.30pm).

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Specialist Palliative Care Team

Information for patients



What is palliative care?

Palliative care is the active holistic care of patients who are facing a life-threatening illness. It also includes the support of their families.

The aim of palliative care is to provide the best quality of life for patients and their families. This is achieved by managing symptoms and providing supportive and spiritual care.

Palliative care aims to:

- Affirm life and regard dying as a natural process
- Provide relief from pain and other symptoms
- Combine psychological and spiritual aspects of care
- Offer a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until they die
- Offer a support system to help the family cope both during the patient's illness and in their own bereavement

(WHO 1990)

Palliative care is the responsibility of all health and social care professionals and is provided by two groups of staff:

- The patient's usual professional carers – this is generalist palliative care.
- Professionals who specialise in palliative care – this is specialist palliative care.

Whilst palliative care is an important part of all clinical practice, the Specialist Palliative Care Team is available for the more complex situations requiring their special skills and multi-disciplinary working.

The Specialist Palliative Care Team can be involved as soon as a patient has been diagnosed with cancer.

Who is on the team?

The team consists of nurses, doctors, allied health professionals, social workers and a chaplain, all of whom have training and experience in palliative care.

What is our function?

We work alongside your own team of doctors and nurses to help with pain and other symptoms that may be a problem.

We are also here to offer support to you, your family and friends. We act as a link between hospital, home and other areas such as nursing homes.

How do we work?

Once you have been referred to us we will visit you and make an assessment. We will discuss your care with you and your doctors and nurses.

Members of the team will be available during your stay in hospital and can get in touch with your community team when you go home.

Team hours:

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

You can ask your doctor or nurse to contact us during your stay in hospital.

What will happen when you go home?

If palliative care is required when you go home, we can, with your consent, link with the relevant community palliative care team in your area and transfer your care to them.