

Newsletter

Winter 2011-12



Palliative Care
Managed Clinical
Network



Education sessions

We have completed this year's series of palliative care education sessions and they have all evaluated well. The four sessions for GPs and Community Nurses focused on sensitive communication around documentation, the electronic palliative care summary and Just in Case boxes/symptom management and the quality of the education was rated as excellent or good.

In November we ran our joint health and social care session on palliative care for non-cancer conditions with 52 delegates. People praised the content, presenters and sensitive handling of the topics. We agreed that our next joint session will have more content led by social work / home care / care home staff.

We also ran two evening sessions for GPs covering new drugs in palliative care and recognising the end of life in respiratory patients. The evaluation is currently being written up, but verbal feedback was positive.



ADDRESSING THE GREAT TABOO

'In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.'

Benjamin Franklin

We are in the middle of piloting our new session 'Addressing the Great Taboo' of talking about death and dying. The first pilot site was a care home and although some of the 36 participants were a bit reticent at first, the level of noise by the end demonstrated that they even enjoyed it. If you would like your workplace to be part of this pilot or would like more information before deciding, please contact Helen.



ON-LINE PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING

NHS Education for Scotland has created a palliative care portal to access a variety of educational resources. It aims to develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of palliative and end of life care and advance care planning.

<http://www.palliativecareinpractice.nes.scot.nhs.uk>.

One of the resources included on this portal is the Department of Health e-End of Life Care for All (eELCA) programme. Although developed in England, anyone in Scotland can request access to these modules and assess their learning progress. The home page provides details of how to apply for access.

<http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/e-elca/index.html>

McKinley T34 Syringe Pumps

A new McKinley pump chart book has been approved for use across Lanarkshire. It is very similar to the previous one, but includes both the prescription and administration record and guidance notes. It can be ordered from Harlow (LAT 475) in batches of 50 and looks very professional.



HOME PACKS

Please remember that Heather and Fiona can supply home packs (tailored to your local area) that help to promote good communication between different organisations and patients/carers. If you would like a stock of these packs, please complete the [contents request form](#) and email or post it to them.

Our excellent three year project to promote use of the Liverpool Care Pathway for Dying Patients is nearing its end. The team is now down to one, but Julie is keen to hear what kind of feedback people would like included in the final evaluation to judge the project's success. It would also be helpful to know what you think we need to bear in mind to ensure this valuable work stays embedded in practice. Please forward your views to Helen.

Just in Case Boxes

A total of 166 audit forms have been returned from our pilot of Just in Case boxes that has been running in Airdrie, Clydesdale, Coatbridge and Hamilton. These forms showed that 137 boxes had been used and staff indicated that these had prevented 94 calls to out of hours and 63 hospital admissions. The MCN is currently finalising a proposal to roll-out these boxes across the rest of Lanarkshire, something that many areas not involved in the pilot are keen to see.

NHS Lanarkshire public website link to palliative care pages

[NHS Lanarkshire Palliative Care web pages](#)

Contact us

helen.alexander@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk
heather.mcdonald2@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk
rosalie.dunn@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk
fiona.young3@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

The next MCN Steering Group meeting will be on 26th April 2012. Details of all MCN meetings and minutes can be found on Firstport. [Palliative Care MCN on Firstport](#)