



Discharge Planning on the Inpatient Unit

We aim to provide you, your family and loved ones with a high level of care and support during your stay, treating you with dignity and respect at all times. One of the ways we do this is to ensure that you are aware of and understand the processes for discharge. This leaflet aims to answer some of the questions you may have on the discharge process. This includes if or when discharge may be considered and the support you can expect to ensure a safe discharge.

Why are patients admitted to the Inpatient Unit?

Patients are admitted for assessment and treatment of complex symptoms. Patients may need an assessment from some or all members of the multi-disciplinary team in order to plan their treatment.

How long do patients stay?

This varies from patient to patient and the Hospice is not a long-stay unit. When symptoms are stabilised, you may still need nursing care but not the high level of specialist care the Hospice provides. If this happens, we will arrange the appropriate discharge in response to your presenting care and support needs in consultation with you and your family or carer.

Who makes the decision to discharge a patient?

Whilst on the Inpatient Unit you are under the care of the consultant for the unit and decisions to discharge you are made by the relevant consultant with input from those multi-disciplinary professionals involved in your care.

What is the decision based on?

We put a plan of care in place that will meet your needs and optimise your symptom control. Once this care plan is established and your needs can be met at home or in an alternative care setting, such as a nursing home, we will discuss discharge with you and your family or carer.

What will happen once this decision has been made?

You will be offered a meeting with the multi-disciplinary team, during which concerns, risks and options can be discussed. This can be a family meeting if the patient wishes, and occasionally other relevant health care professionals may be invited. Plans for discharge will then be started as appropriate.

What happens if I want to go home sooner?

We aim to work with you to fulfil your wishes as quickly as possible. If or when you want to go home, we will help you identify the relevant support and endeavour to put this in place before you leave. Should this involve shortfalls in support we will work with you to identify how this can be managed.

What if I want to remain at Arthur Rank Hospice?

Discharge discussions may be welcome by some patients and their families, but for others can be difficult and stressful. The Inpatient Unit is a safe and supportive environment, and a move can seem disruptive and fraught with anxiety.

We understand how difficult this can be and we aim to support you and your family through this process. If you are too unwell to be moved or have symptoms that cannot be managed in another setting, it may be appropriate for you to continue to receive care in the Hospice Inpatient unit.

What are my options following discharge?

We aim to support you and your family through the process of identifying and organising care wherever this may be. This includes exploring care in your own home or alternative settings that provide varying levels of support such as sheltered housing or a nursing home if suitable. We aim to ensure our discharges are safe and as supported as possible.

How soon will discharge take place?

When any equipment and care needed to make discharge as safe as possible are in place, discharge can go ahead. Alternatively, if a nursing home is needed and identified, discharge is usually a day or two following the home's assessment of the patient.

Who will pay for my care?

The social worker will explain how your care will be funded depending on a financial assessment. This may also include application for NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC) funding if appropriate.

If you have any questions or concerns about your discharge, please let us know and one of the multi-disciplinary team can come and talk to you or your family.

Questions you may have for staff

Notes

Resources

What is Continuing Healthcare funding?
(NHS Continuing Healthcare)

beaconhc.co.uk/what-is-nhs-continuing-healthcare/

nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/money-work-and-benefits/nhs-continuing-healthcare/

A Guide to Independent Living in Cambridgeshire 2021
cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory

All information is correct at time of print and may be subject to change. Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information. If you have any feedback or would like this information in a different format or language, please contact us.