

E: PEOLC@gov.scot

Dear Colleague

SCOTTISH PALLIATIVE CARE GUIDELINES

The Scottish Government is pleased to promote the launch of the new web and mobile app for the Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines. This app is delivered through the Right Decision Service – the national decision support service provided by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) – and has been sent to Boards.

Background

Palliative and end of life care is provided by health and social care professionals to those living with, and dying from, any advanced, progressive incurable condition.

Good palliative care is not just about supporting someone in the last months, days and hours of life, but about enhancing the quality of life for both patients and families at every stage of the disease process, from diagnosis onwards. A palliative care approach should be considered, alongside active disease management, from an early stage in the disease process.

Palliative care focuses on the person, not the disease, and applies a holistic approach to meeting the physical, practical, functional, social, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and carers facing progressive illness and bereavement.

These Palliative Care Guidelines have been developed by a multidisciplinary group of professionals working in the community, hospital and specialist palliative care services. They provide practical, evidence-based or best-practice guidance on a range of common clinical issues. These will be of benefit to both generalist and specialist providers of palliative care.

The Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines reflect a consensus of opinion about good practice in the management of adult patients with life-limiting illness. They are designed for healthcare professionals from any care setting who are involved in supporting people with a palliative, life-limiting condition.

From the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland
Professor, Sir Gregor Smith
Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland, Professor Alex McMahon
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Scotland,
Professor Alison Strath
National Clinical Director,
Professor Jason Leitch

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Addresses

For action

Primary Care Leads
Chief Social Work Officers
Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Directors of Public Health, NHS Boards
Medical Directors, NHS Boards
Chief Operating Officers
Directors of Pharmacy
Health & Social Care Partnership
Chief Officers
Directors of Nursing
Health Promotion Managers
Chief Officers of Integration
Authorities
Councillor Paul Kelly, CoSLA

Further Enquiries to:

Palliative and End of Life Care Unit
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Access via the web at: <https://www.palliativecareguidelines.scot.nhs.uk/> OR

Download the Right Decisions mobile app from the app stores

<https://apps.apple.com/app/right-decisions-health-care/id6443955210>

Android download -

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tactuum.quris&hl=en_GB&gl=US

This initial version of the app provides a starting point for future development. HIS look forward to working with stakeholders to improve and expand it over the coming months.

Action

You are asked to ensure that the new web and mobile app for the Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines are brought to the attention of all relevant staff involved in supporting people with a palliative, life-limiting condition.

Yours sincerely

Gregor Smith

Professor Sir Gregor Smith

Chief Medical Officer for Scotland

Alex McMahon

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Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland

Alison Strath

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Jason Leitch

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