

Advance Care Planning during COVID-19

Advance care planning is a broad term encompassing decision making with respect to a patient's wishes regarding their future care with clinical input as to what options may be available, and which may not. It involves an assessment about ceilings of care, including but not limited to Do Not Resuscitate decisions (DNACPR). Advance or future care planning and good practice general information can be found on our website. Given the potential for COVID-19 exposure, making decisions about patient care makes advance planning for all patients imperative. The advice below is the minimum that should be asked for any patient with a life limiting illness, irrespective as to whether they potentially have COVID-19 or not.

For every patient with a life limiting illness, before you finish your consultation, remember **COVID**:

Community care or Hospitalisation if deteriorates - is hospital appropriate if someone becomes less well? Under what circumstances?

Organise anticipatory medication

Ventilation - would this be appropriate? Non-invasive ventilation (NIV) and intubation require clinical staff to have FFP3 protection to perform it

Inform patients and others of your decision

DNACPR - is resuscitation futile? Remember active resuscitation attempts require staff to have full FFP3 protection

We would encourage all clinicians to have these discussions with anyone with a life limiting condition. Appropriate patients may still be for consideration of hospitalisation, ventilation and resuscitation but clinicians must be acutely aware that these procedures carry a potential risk to carers and healthcare staff at this time. Making decisions with patients where these interventions are futile is needed now more than ever. Whilst it is important to involve the patient and any family /carers they wish, they need to be made in a clinical context. If clinicians are unsure or require further advice, please contact Kirkwood Hospice.

Once decisions have been made please remember to:

- Document the decisions on EPACCs, as a high priority reminder on SystmOne, and on an updated out of hours handover form
- Prescribe any necessary anticipatory medication, and complete a DNACPR form if this has been discussed