

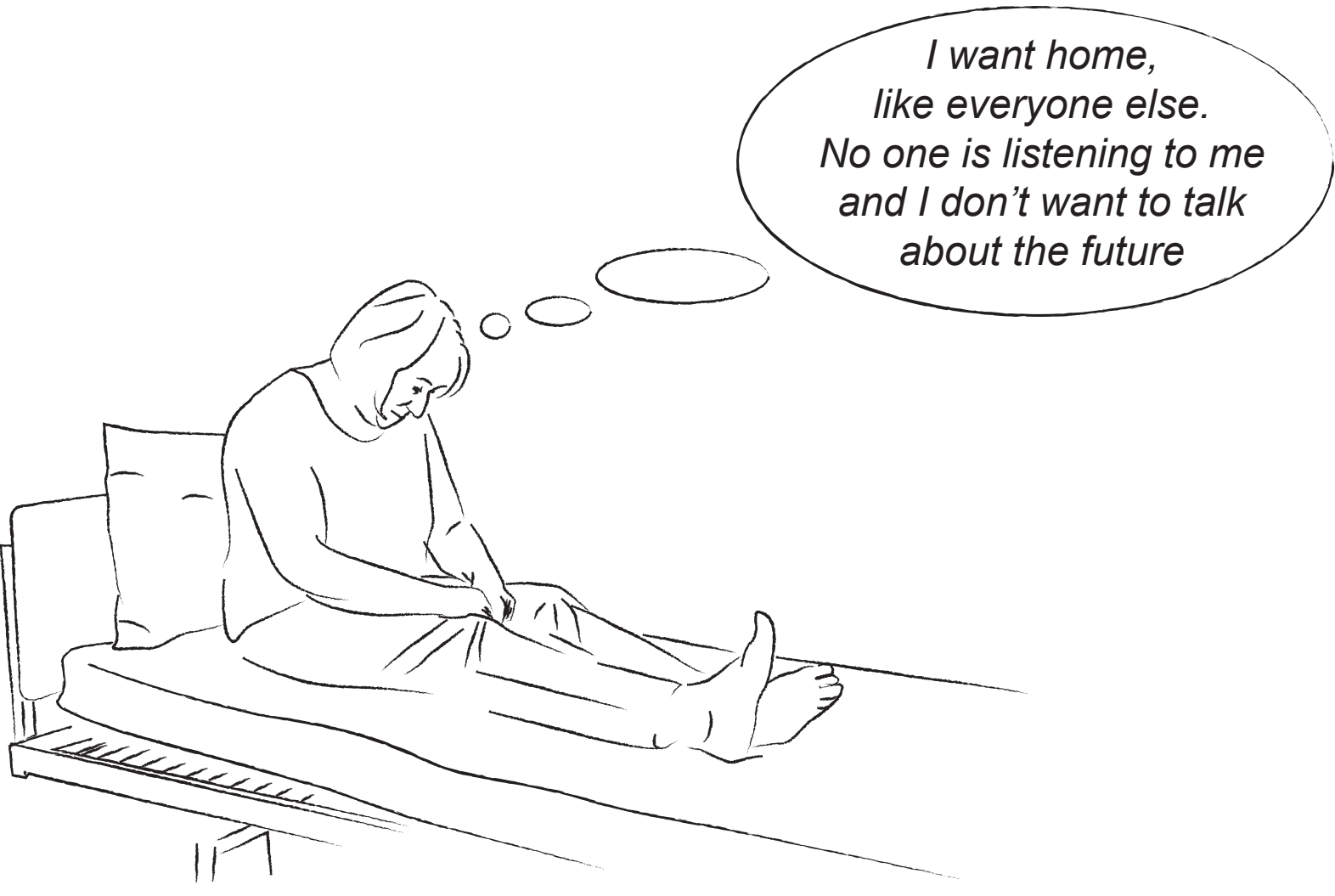
# The role of an Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist within a Hospital Palliative Care Team: An impact assessment

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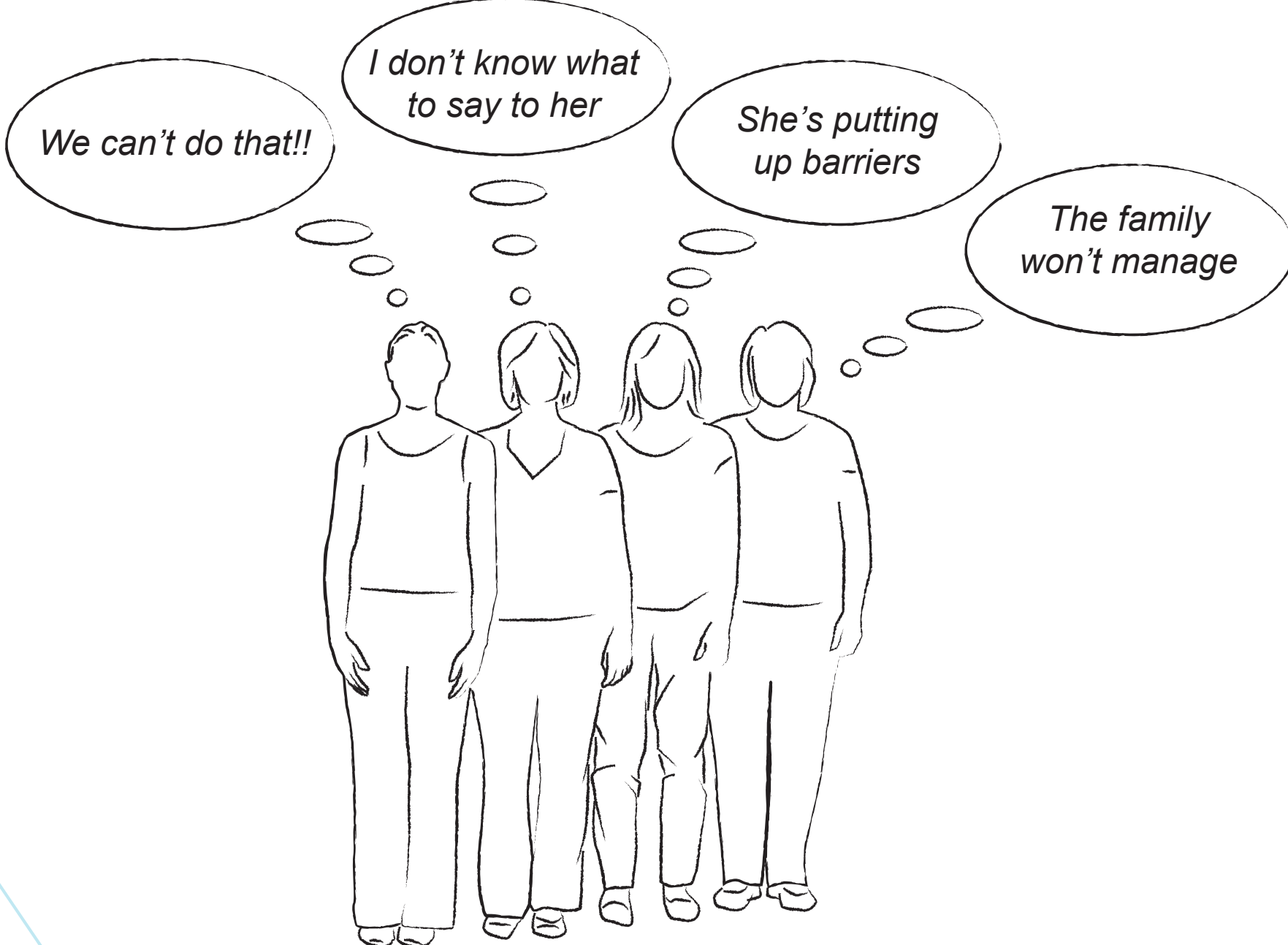
Funded from Macmillan Cancer Support, this is a three year project which began in 2012, looking at the addition of an Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist to an already established Hospital Palliative Care Team of nurses, doctors, social worker, pharmacist and complementary therapist. This is in addition to the already existing team of ward based OTs and PTs.

Inspiration for the project came from complex patient discharges. The team wanted to explore what difference there would be by having an OT and PT educated specifically to a specialist palliative care approach. Working alongside the Clinical Nurse Specialists as part of the Hospital Palliative Care Team, the OT and PT can assess patients' needs and devise management plans.

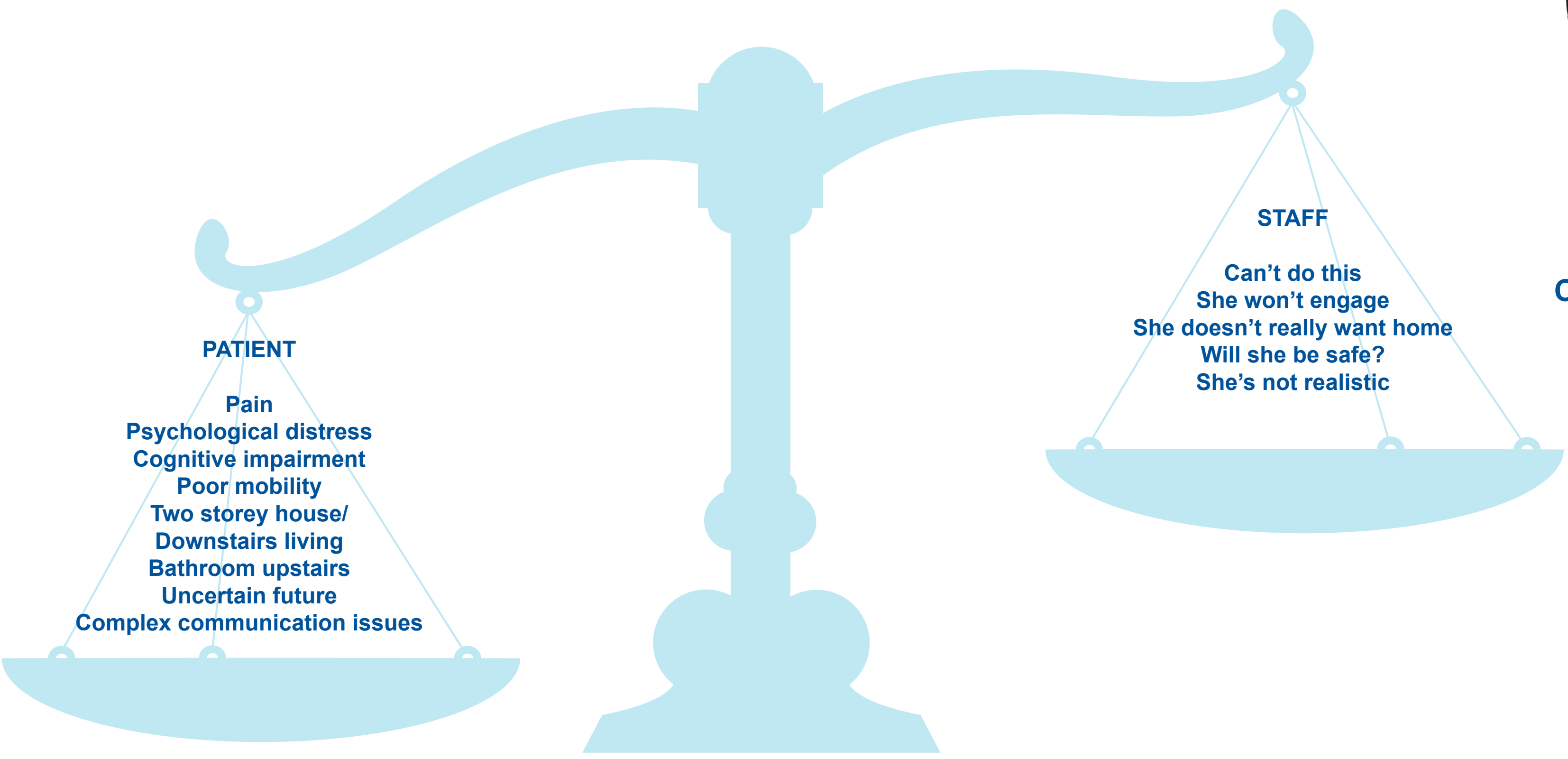
## TRIGGER FOR PROJECT



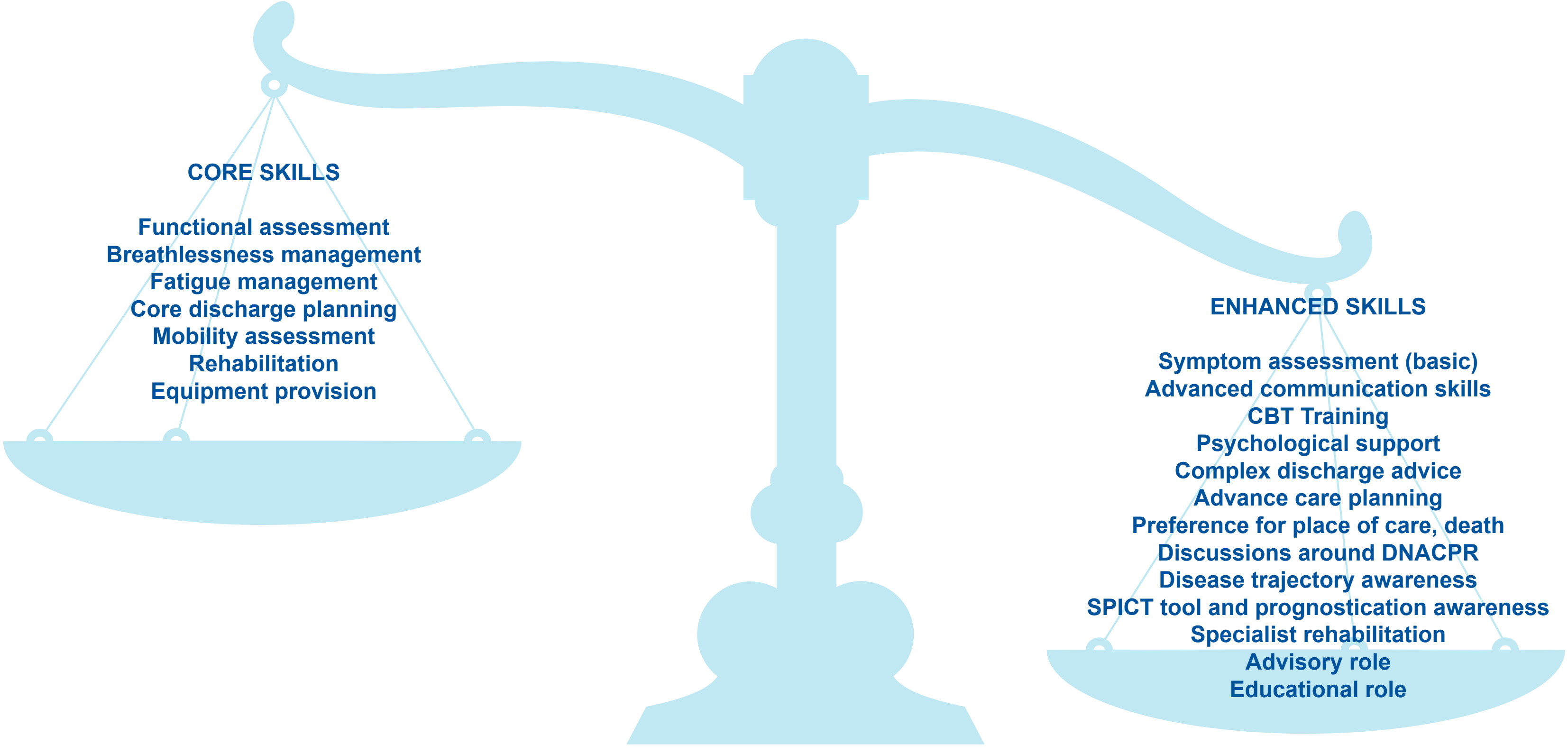
Patient with complex needs



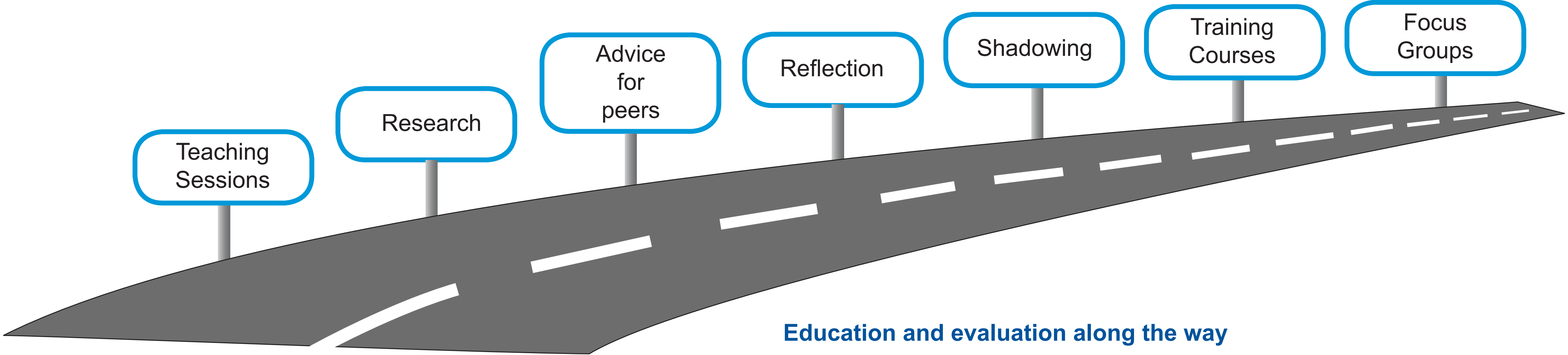
Common staff concerns



Redressing the balance  
Specialist OT and physiotherapist project started



OT & PT skills



Education and evaluation along the way

Both the OT and PT brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the service and in turn they have gained an enormous amount; for example, enhanced communication skills to enable advance care planning discussions, thinking ahead and recognising the individual needs of patients to a specialist level. A key role is to liaise with generalist OTs and PTs and provide advice to support complex palliative care patients.

By identifying with their colleagues in their respective profession, the OT and PT have been able to provide education sessions that may be much more powerful than if delivered simply by the nursing team.

Both the OT and PT are now studying towards the Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care.