SPARC – Supportive & Palliative Action Register in the Community

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Introduction
A previous partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support aimed to redesign community based palliative care in Renfrewshire. This led to the testing of SPARC-Supportive and Palliative Action Register in the Community. Key outputs included:

- development of MDT meetings called WISeR which stands for Weekly Integrated System Response
- development of a social prescribing model for people with a palliative condition whose support needs are stable, which we refer to as the Green Stream

This led to a year-long partnership with Healthcare Improvement Scotland to test ways to more effectively identify people who would feed into these services, which was funded by Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s iHub.

Identification: new GP question?

Is it likely that this diagnosis or condition will result in this person needing palliative care?

Are this person’s current needs changing and would they benefit from having their care coordinated by community MDT?

Could this person be deteriorating towards death?

SPARC Registers
Through our work with the GP practices, it became apparent that there are a wide variety of approaches to managing palliative care registers and meetings. Therefore, we have developed a new ‘SPARC’ register format that supports both identification and discussion of these individuals. This register can be shared with other practices should they wish to use it.

Identification:

Is it likely that this diagnosis or condition will result in this person needing palliative care?

Are this person’s current needs changing and would they benefit from having their care coordinated by community MDT?

Could this person be deteriorating towards death?

Greenlaw Practice - SPARC

Priority - Activity
1 - High
2 - Moderate
3 - Low
4 - Deceased

Greenlaw Code to Use
On Supportive Care:
Register: EMIS/ON14
Palliative Care: JVS/TC

End of Life Care

Bereavement support

SPARC Registers

The date an individual is added to the SPARC register is recorded.

The primary diagnosis which has triggered the person’s addition to the SPARC register. This could be related to any condition, for example: organ failure, cancer, multimorbidity or frailty related to advancing age.

Personal identification

The GP who knows the person the best

Greenlaw Practice - SPARC

Priority - Activity
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Coded: Date of KIS

WISeR

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New GP Question
The main shift in thinking was to establish how to identify people who would benefit from the Green Stream, the social prescribing arm of the SPARC approach. This led to the development of a ‘new’ GP question to identify people much earlier in their disease or condition. The traditional ‘surprise question’ is still helpful for identifying people approaching the end of their life, but we want to offer support and advice long before this, facilitating early palliative care.

EMIS codes have been identified for Green, Amber and Red. Use of these defined codes allows practices to easily search and create lists of people who have been coded in this way.

New GP Question: Would the patient die in the next 12 months?

End of Life Care

Social Prescribing

Likely minimal GP involvement

Likely high level of GP involvement

This indicates how ‘active’ a person’s needs are, with those with the most GP related activity given the highest priority.

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End of Life Care

Bereavement support

People on the SPARC register are coded either supportive or palliative based on either their stage of disease/condition or the stage of communication. This takes into consideration the person's readiness for ACP conversations.

For more information please contact Susanne Gray susanne.gray@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or 0141 314 4424

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