

Palliative Care is Community Pharmacy's Business

Community Pharmacy and *Living and Dying Well*



AIM

To align community pharmacy in NHS Tayside with the Living and Dying Well Action Plan.

OBJECTIVES

To contribute to the following Living and Dying Well actions:

- Identification, assessment & review of an individual's care needs & the needs of carers.
- Facilitating anticipatory care.
- Prevention of unnecessary crises.
- Improved multi-disciplinary communication.
- Improving the knowledge and skills of generalist staff.

PROGRESS IN 2009/10

Tayside Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Network (TCPPCN)

- Established in 2002 following concerns expressed in accessing palliative care medicines for people being cared for at home.
- Comprises 15 community pharmacies from across Tayside.
- All stock a range of palliative care medicines.
- Provide information regarding these medicines to patients, carers and healthcare professionals.
- Recorded involvement in 283 episodes of care.
- Key contacts from all Network pharmacies attended a half-day palliative care update session.
- 73% Network pharmacists spent a day visiting their local specialist palliative care service.
- Macmillan Lead Pharmacist (Palliative Care) visited 93% of Network pharmacy teams in their premises.



Availability of Key Palliative Care Medicines

- All general practices and out of hours services in NHS Tayside contacted. Difficulties in accessing palliative care medicines during the last year? No issues or concerns raised by those contacted.
- Scoping exercise highlighted 4 key medicines required to facilitate good end of life care can be accessed from all community pharmacies. TCPPCN pharmacies available as back up for these items if anticipatory care not possible.
- All incidents reported to Macmillan Lead Pharmacist (Palliative Care) regarding availability of key palliative care medicines investigated and actioned.

Palliative Care Education Sessions For Community Pharmacy Staff

- 112 attended a palliative care update session.
- 55 attended a bereavement-training event.

OUTCOMES

- Integration of Network pharmacies with local specialist palliative care services.
- Improved communication between multidisciplinary

team members.

- Improved networking of community pharmacies within a locality.
- Increased knowledge of support and services available.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- Explore community pharmacy access to local registers of patients with palliative care needs.
- Extend palliative care education sessions to all staff in all community pharmacies in Tayside.
- Facilitate community pharmacy access to current palliative care guidelines.
- Explore access to palliative care related patient information from community pharmacies.

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REFERENCES

Living and Dying Well – a national action plan for palliative and end of life care in Scotland. The Scottish Government. 2008.

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