

Generalist Palliative Medicine in NHS Tayside

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Background

The **General Internal Medicine (GIM)** department is within Ward 4, Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.

It is a **24-bed ward**, caring for people with **wide-ranging health and/or social care needs**.

Common presentations include; **alcohol or substance use, malignancies and the effects of multi-morbidity and chronic disease**.

With a robust **focus on multi-disciplinary working**, Ward 4, endeavours to create a clinical environment which delivers **realistic, person-centred care**.

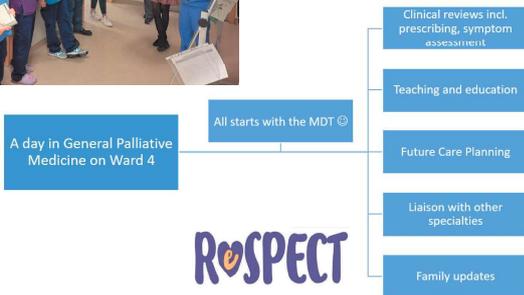
In April 2020, GIM employed a specialty doctor, co-funded by NHS Tayside's Palliative Medicine department, for 3 days per week.

Aim:

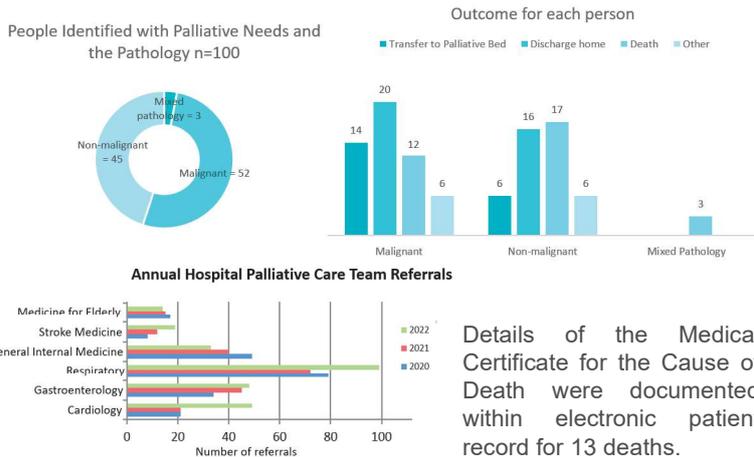
To consider the acceptability of the role, the impact on the multi-disciplinary team and the people in our care

What does Generalist Palliative Medicine look like:

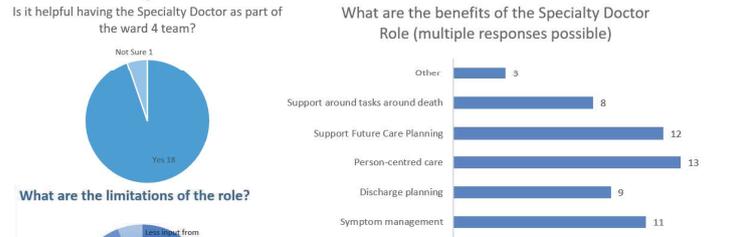
Since the post was created the Specialty Doctor has worked collaboratively to become embedded within the GIM team.



Who we looked after April 2022-23:



What does the MDT think of the role?



Very useful to gain greater understanding of the person-centred approach which carries forward for patients discharging to palliative care hospitals

Having a Pall med specialist doctor has been a blessing to the ward 4 team. Knowing we are supported by a specialist helps ease the stress of nurses. We are able to gain insight into palliative care and use this to care for patients and their families at perhaps their worst moments. Knowing the right medication will be prescribed and the patient will be well cared for is a comfort to the nursing team in a sometimes stressful environment.

It is extremely helpful having a specialty doctor with palliative care interest on the ward. It makes dealing with difficult situations, such as pain control and end of life easier to manage as we always have expert advice.

I think it is great to have that support on the ward and definitely improves the care we provide to our palliative patients

Helpful having a Pall Care Spec Dr on the ward to reduce number of unnecessary referrals to HPCT and reduce waiting time for their input

Might be a good idea if there were teaching sessions for nursing staff, regarding Palliative Medicine.

Key Learning Points:

- Innovative staffing; utilising the skills of a Specialty Doctor within General Medicine to deliver in-house Palliative Medicine.
- Reduction in the number of referrals to local Hospital Palliative Care Team.
- Multi-disciplinary acceptability for the role.

Other Achievements:

- Ward 4 was a test site, for implementing **ReSPECT (Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment)** within NHS Tayside, led by the Specialty Doctor, integral to local spread.
- To date, 25 **ReSPECT** plans have been completed.
- A Parliamentary motion celebrates Ward 4 as an outstanding example of delivering person-centred care.

Next Steps:

- Work with community colleagues to develop support for people with substance use and end of life care needs.
- Improve recording of cause of death in patient records.
- Continue to implement the **ReSPECT** process
- Gather person, staff and family experiences

Key Reference Material:

- Recognising Ward 4, Ninewells Hospital – The Scottish Parliament > Chambers & Committees > Votes & Motions
- Resuscitation Council UK - www.resus.org.uk/respect