

Ensuring the right end of life care for patients with Fast Track funding



Ben Gold/Marie Curie

1,600 referrals received*
and **57,000** hours of care
delivered for patients with
CHC Fast Track funding.¹

Marie Curie Seniors Nurses ensure patients in Dorset who are eligible for Continuing Healthcare (CHC) Fast Track funding get the right care, in the right place and at the right time, by overseeing this process expertly and efficiently.

What need does the service address?

With an ageing population growing faster than the national average, many of whom live in rural areas, NHS Dorset CCG identified a need for more end of life expertise and resources to help assess and care for patients who are eligible for CHC Fast Track funding.

Benefits to NHS Dorset CCG

- Helps the NHS meet its statutory obligations
- Enables effective use of resources by ensuring care packages are necessary and appropriate
- Increases efficiency by smoothly managing assessment, review and co-ordination of care in the CHC process
- Helps prevent avoidable hospital admissions
- Provides quality assurance that care is of a high standard.

Benefits to patients and families

- Patients assessed quickly to get the right package of care for their needs
- Patients and carers receive reliable and quality-assured care
- Patients who want to remain at home are able to do so with expert support from Marie Curie Healthcare Assistants
- More patients are able to die in the place of their choice, whether that is their home or care home.

93% of the **658** patients who received Marie Curie nursing care died in the place of their choice.²

How does the service work?

Our experienced Marie Curie Senior Nurses carefully assess each patient's Fast Track application so they can design a care package tailored to meet their needs. They also review each patient's needs on an ongoing basis, ensuring appropriate, high-quality care is still being provided to them and their family.

By managing this sensitive, resource-intensive process, Marie Curie saves the district nursing teams time, and relieves pressure on their team.

If the patient is being cared for in their own home, a team of qualified Marie Curie Healthcare Assistants is also available to deliver expert care according to their needs through a flexible combination of daytime and evening visits, and overnight care.

"The Marie Curie Fast Track service in Dorset provides effective and efficient co-ordination and ongoing review to ensure patients are getting the right care packages to meet their needs. Marie Curie brings its considerable expertise to the partnership and provides assurance that the care people receive at the end of their lives is of the highest quality. It also offers flexibility, adapting the service to the constantly changing healthcare environment we work in."

Simon Meers, Senior Commissioning Manager,
NHS Dorset CCG

How does the service add value?

A seamless and integrated part of health and social care provision in Dorset, our service helps the NHS to make the best use of their resources while preventing avoidable hospital admissions.

By working closely with NHS Dorset CCG, we also streamline the allocation of CHC packages, enabling all providers to meet patients' needs.

Through our expertise in end of life care, we provide the NHS with quality assurance, better co-ordination of care and enhanced patient experience.

"My father was very weakened and had developed chronic bedsores. This meant he had to be moved every three hours, night and day, which was very difficult for me on my own. I was so grateful that the Marie Curie nursing team was there. They definitely helped Dad to remain at home, which meant so much to him. For me, they were an absolute lifeline. As well as enabling me to sleep, they were so good at sharing burdens and lifting my spirit."

Jane Churcher, whose father John received support at home from the Marie Curie Fast Track service in Dorset

¹ In 2016/17. *For Fast Track funding at home and in nursing homes which the Marie Curie team co-ordinated.

² In 2016/17.

More information

mariecurie.org.uk/commissioning

 @MarieCurieEOLC

Marie Curie is the UK's leading charity caring for people living with any terminal illness, and their families. We offer expert care through our home nursing and hospice services, as well as information and support for patients, their loved ones and the professionals who care for them.