Going Home To Die

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Aims

• To discuss National and Local Strategies.
• Share and reflect on our experiences of taking people home to die.
• Finally, look at development upon reflection.
Why???

It is widely documented that the vast majority of deaths in the ICU occur following decisions to withhold or withdraw treatment. 

*(The ICS Standards Committee, 2003)*

Critical Care Units within the UK are encouraged to adopt a National End of Life Care policy which is driven by government initiatives. Publications show the commitment required for increased choice and improved care at end of life.

*(Coombs and Long, 2008)*
National Strategy

There are three main strategies that govern end of life care:

• **End of Life Strategy 2008** - *aims to improve the provision of care for all adults at the end of life, and their families and carers.* (Updated 31/08/2010)

• **NHS National End of Life Care Programme 2010** - *works with health and social care services across all sectors in England to improve end of life care for adults by implementing the Department of Health’s End of Life Care Strategy.*

• **Gold Standards Framework 2000** - *Enabling a gold standard of care for all people nearing the end of life.*
Local Strategies

• 60% of people would prefer to die at home in Medway (Buckingham 2010)
• Raising the Profile
• Local End of Life Strategy – Acute Hospital, PCT, G.P. Meddoc, Ambulance Service, Pharmacy, Rapid Response, Social Services, Macmillan and other community support services
• Aiming for a Single Point of Access (SPA)
• Liverpool Care Pathway
ICNARC DATA

19.5% ADMITTED WITH A PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS OF COPD/CA
17.5% TREATMENT WITHDRAWN
Experiences
Suitability

• Unstable Patient
• Culture, Religion
• Feasibility i.e. house setting
ICU Developments

- Recognition that people have a choice and wish to die at home
- Developing an End of Life team within ICU
- Developing partnerships with Medway’s End of Life Multidisciplinary team
- Implementation of Medway ICU’s End of Life Pathway
- Ensuring ethical and legal elements are appropriately addressed
- Educating and developing resources for the Medway ICU multidisciplinary team
‘How people die remains in the memory of those who live on’

Dame Cicely Saunders, 2008
Founder of the Modern Hospice Movement
References


