

## CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO THE INPATIENT UNIT

Admissions are for complex care needs or terminal care only. We do not admit patients for respite care.

### Admissions for complex care needs

- Patients with progressive incurable life-limiting illness; **and**
- Complex symptoms, psychosocial, or functional needs requiring the input of a multi-professional palliative care team; **and**
- Needs that at the present time require assessment, treatment and monitoring as an inpatient at the hospice and not anywhere else; **and**
- These symptoms not resulting from, or reflecting, an acute change in condition that warrants investigation and treatment in hospital

### Admissions for terminal care

- Patients in last days of life; **and**
- Such care cannot be adequately provided in another setting (community hospital, Derriford [if current Inpatient], home or care home), because:
  - Adequate symptom control may not be possible in such a setting; **or**
  - The complexity or intensity of medical or nursing interventions can no longer be managed by carers and additional professional help available; **or**
  - Because of patient or carer distress (this does not include a simple preference for hospice rather than nursing home/hospital); **or**
  - Because dying at home or elsewhere would complicate the bereavement of the patient's carers/family (e.g. young children at home)

We do not admit patients simply to have a blood transfusion. However, transfusions will be carried out in the Inpatient Unit where this is part of a broader assessment.