

WINTER 2016

PROFESSIONAL UPDATE

Delivering excellent care doesn't happen in a vacuum and at St Luke's Hospice Plymouth we're proud of our partnerships with you and other healthcare professionals. Here's our latest updates and useful information to support you in your work.

ST LUKE'S DERRIFORD HOSPITAL SERVICE GOES SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



The St Luke's team of specialist doctors and nurses at Derriford Hospital have expanded their service provision to be available for families seven days a week (8:30am to 4:30pm).

This means that more support will be available for those dealing with a difficult diagnoses and ensure appropriate care and advice is in place as early as possible. The team works closely with both NHS colleagues and other St Luke's practitioners and can also facilitate referrals between teams to get people home or into specialist care. **Contact them on 01752 436744.**

DID YOU KNOW?



St Luke's is entirely independent of any other charities working locally and receives no funding from charitable donations given to other organisations.



St Luke's works in partnership with the NHS to offer end of life care at Derriford Hospital, often being the first practitioners to meet with family on receiving news of a life-limiting diagnosis.

3,419
patients =



RESOURCES

Visit the "RESOURCES" section of the St Luke's website for advice, guidance and downloadable resources for patients and their carers, nursing homes, medical students and GPs. These pages include guidance on prescribing, drug conversion charts and referral forms.

Why not bookmark this page:

www.stlukes-hospice.org.uk/resources



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Email: info@stlukes-hospice.org.uk to receive the next edition electronically or to give feedback

REFERRALS NOW ACCEPTED FOR PATIENTS IN CRISIS AT END OF LIFE



People in East Cornwall can now access a new 24-hour specialist nursing service as we have extended the work of our Crisis Team to help people in and around Looe, Liskeard, Saltash, Callington, Torpoint and Launceston.

The innovative pilot initiative provides terminally ill patients a 72 hour window of specialist care at home to stabilise symptoms, avoid any unnecessary admission to hospital or facilitate rapid discharge from hospital or hospice back home.

The team will work in close partnership with other community health and social care providers in East Cornwall to enhance end of life care services and offer solutions to crisis situations where a patient

does not have care arrangements in place. For example, if they need to quickly return home from hospital and their family needs help to look after them.

The service already runs in and around the Plymouth area and has helped get people home who don't need to be in hospital and supported hundreds of families to respect their loved ones wishes to die at home. Referrals are accepted from local health care professionals.

Contact them on 01752 964230.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT OUR LYMPHOEDEMA SERVICE ACTUALLY DOES?



It's heavy work being a lymphoedema practitioner. Our current team of three, led by Cheryl Brown, saw 107 patients last month – all of which were suffering from mild to severe swelling of their limbs.

The highly specialist service provided in the custom-built clinic at Turnchapel looks after people with a variety of reasons for this retention of fluid. Over 60% will be post-cancer treatment and 10% will have been born with the condition. Meanwhile, the others will have either mixed diagnoses, be palliative patients at the end of their lives, or have lipoedema.

Patients are seen via referral from healthcare professional and at initial assessment Cheryl and her team of Annabel Sanson and Jo Vella will review the patient's past medical history to make sure no underlying conditions have been missed.

Once the referral is processed, patients will be offered a treatment plan which could include all, or any combination of, hosiery, gentle massage for manual drainage, multi-layer pressure bandaging or the use of a LymphAssist. The last of these is a machine that applies sequential compression up and down the leg, a bit like a large blood pressure cuff, which redistributes lymph fluid around the body to be excreted as urine.

Once the limb has reached a more manageable size, the team will move to regular check-ups, either at Turnchapel or through their mobile clinics at Tavistock and Kingsbridge. Lymphoedema services at St Luke's? Cheryl and her team have got them wrapped up. **Contact them on 01752 246600.**