

The Welsh Collaborative Care Pathway Project

Abstract

The primary goal of this project was to improve the care of the dying patient through the introduction of a pre-developed integrated care pathway, (ICP) whilst concurrently seeking to determine the feasibility of implementing an ICP on a Wales-wide scale. Thirty-eight teams reflecting four care settings and crossing the statutory and voluntary sectors participated in the project. Training was delivered on a regional basis in the North, South and Middle areas of the principality. For a period of one year the progress of the participating teams with the process of implementing the ICP was monitored. Support was provided by quarterly regional meetings, a project website, quarterly newsletter, and telephone help-line.

After one year 80% of the teams participating in the project were using the ICP in their workplace. A further 10% were prepared and ready to use the ICP when a suitable patient was referred, 10% were unable to implement the ICP. The feasibility of implementing a pre-developed care pathway for the last days of life across different care settings and sectors throughout Wales has been clearly demonstrated. The central collection and analysis of variance sheets has established a base-line measure of palliative care quality, facilitated local and national benchmarking and indicated future directions for research and development to improve the care of the dying patient throughout Wales.

Dr Andrew Fowell, Professor I Finlay, Ros Johnstone & Lindsey Minto.

Contact: Ros Johnstone Palliative Care Department
Bodfan Eryri Hospital Caernarfon Gwynedd LL 55 2YE

e-mail wccpp.manager@nww-tr.wales.nhs.uk