Community Palliative Care Pathway for RACF in Wellington Shire

The community palliative care service is available to provide consultation when current strategies to manage symptoms / issues are ineffective

Criteria for referral

✓ The client has a progressive life limiting illness for which the primary goal is maximising function and comfort
✓ The client and /or family is aware of the diagnosis and prognosis and the referral has been discussed and agreed with client and family
✓ The referral is discussed and negotiated with the primary health professional
✓ The client/caregiver and family have identified needs that are not being adequately addressed that may include:
  • Agitation / restlessness
  • Nausea / vomiting
  • Breathing difficulties
  • Pain
  • Complex family issues.

RACF contacts GP regarding management or referral

Resident managed in RACF with ongoing GP support

Central Gippsland Health Community Palliative Care Service

5143 8885
Mon - Fri
8.00am - 4.30pm

GP can contact GRPCCS directly
(Business Hours or After Hours)

Gippsland Regional Palliative Care Consultancy Service (GRPCCS)

Phone: 51738713
Criteria for Referral for Community Palliative Care in Wellington Shire
Progressive incurable disease with complex palliative care needs (physical, spiritual, psychological) which are not being met.

COMPLEX PALLIATIVE CARE NEEDS may include:
1. Tumours or disease that are likely to require specialist input
2. Uncontrolled symptoms (pain, delirium, nausea and vomiting)
3. Two or more symptoms
4. Two or more sites of pain
5. Symptoms that have undergone a rapid deterioration (unstable or deteriorating phase of care)
6. Significant side effects from medications
7. More than 2 medications required for pain control (not including paracetamol).
8. More than 4 medications required for overall symptom control
9. Complex psychosocial issues including family dysfunction, lack of carer/social supports
10. Complex psychiatric history
11. History of prior substance abuse
12. Lack of clear advance care plan or difficulty with current goals of care
13. Paediatric or young adults

Process for referral to:

Central Gippsland Health (CGH) — Community Palliative Care Service
Phone call to Central Gippsland Health (CGH) — Community Palliative Care Service 5143 8885
Fax referral to 5143 8890

Gippsland Region Palliative Care Consultancy Service (GRPCCS)
Phone call to GRPCCS Business Hours 5173 8713 or After Hours (GP’s only) via LRH switchboard 5173 8000

If Palliative care issue is a RACF system/capacity issue, refer to Palliative Aged Care Resource Nurse (GRPCC) for support (56226482)