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Impact of an hospital-based palliative care service in the community.

Submission date	Recruitment status	[_] Prospectively registered
23/01/2004	No longer recruiting	[_] Protocol
Registration date	**Overall study status**	[_] Statistical analysis plan
23/01/2004	Completed	[X] Results
Last Edited	**Condition category**	[_] Individual participant data
14/12/2007	Signs and Symptoms	

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

Secondary identifying numbers
NCP/J01

Study information

Scientific Title

Study objectives
This project aims to evaluate the cost and effectiveness of an hospital based palliative care service on subsequent care of advanced cancer patients in the community, in terms of length of index hospital admission, and need for re-admission, quality of symptom control on discharge and at home, quality of life and functional status at home, patient and carer satisfaction, impact on general practitioner/district nurse workload, and eventual place of death. The effects of such a service on the professional satisfaction of the primary care team will also be assessed. The study will be a randomised controlled trial of two levels of intervention by the palliative care team in the United Bristol Healthcare Trust. Assessments will be undertaken both during the hospital admission and after discharge over a 5 month follow-up period or to death.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Not provided at time of registration

Study design
Randomised controlled trial

Primary study design
Interventional

Secondary study design
Randomised controlled trial

Study setting(s)
Hospital

Study type(s)
Quality of life

Participant information sheet

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Symptoms and general pathology: Pain

Interventions
1. The visiting service: (the usual service delivered by the Palliative Care Team.) Initial assessment by a specialist doctor/nurse with detailed advice about problems identified in patient's case notes. Follow-up by telephone and in-person consultations with patient, family and medical and nursing staff caring for patient. Liaison also with community-based health professions and palliative care outpatient follow-up if appropriate. Advice and support provided only but over and above the normal service provided to hospital patients.
2. The telephone service: A more limited form of intervention devised as the control. No direct

contact between the Palliative Care Team and the patient or family. Telephone consultation took place within one working day of referral between a senior medical PCT member and the referring doctor and also between a clinical nurse specialist and a member of the ward nursing staff involved in the patient's care. A second telephone consultation could be made if necessary but with no further follow-up or advice offered.

Patients randomised to either the visiting service or the telephone service in order to compare: pain, symptom control and global health-related 'quality of life'; satisfaction of patients, carers and health professionals; and use of health service resources.

Intervention Type
Other

Phase
Not Specified

Primary outcome measure
Not provided at time of registration

Secondary outcome measures
Not provided at time of registration

Overall study start date
01/01/2001

Completion date
31/12/2001

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Patients 18 and over newly referred to PCT
2. Able to understand instructions and provide written consent within one day of referral
3. Physically and emotionally well enough to consider participating in a study and to reflect on their illness experience with a researcher
4. Not likely to be discharged with 24 hours of referral. PCT advice requested urgently
5. No strong preference expressed by the patient or patient's clinician for the visiting service of the PCT only
6. Aware of diagnosis
7. Willing to answer questions and be followed up for 4 weeks

Participant type(s)
Patient

Age group
Not Specified

Lower age limit
18 Years

Sex
Not Specified

Target number of participants
Not provided at time of registration

Key exclusion criteria
Written consent not provided within one day of referral.

Date of first enrolment
01/01/2001

Date of final enrolment
31/12/2001

Locations

Countries of recruitment
England

United Kingdom

Study participating centre
Department of Palliative Medicine
Bristol
United Kingdom
BS2 8ED

Sponsor information

Organisation
Record Provided by the NHS R&D 'Time-Limited' National Programme Register - Department of Health (UK)

Sponsor details
The Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
United Kingdom
SW1A 2NL

Sponsor type
Government

Website
http://www.doh.gov.uk

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
NHS Cancer National Research and Development Programme (UK)

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan
Not provided at time of registration

Intention to publish date

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	Results	23/09/2002		Yes	No