

A third of hospital patients are in their last year of life - can we give them better care?



Findings from Gold Standards Framework (GSF) accredited wards



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Changing culture

"I think the biggest change has been the culture change..... it's about getting patients and their families to take ownership of their care. GSF is the framework that allows us to make that happen. The best bit is making sure that patients receive the care they want, where they want it, when and how they want it and the satisfaction they and we get from that."

Dr Kumar, Stroke Consultant at Royal Lancaster Infirmary



Identified patients on white board of GSF accredited Ward, Sunrise B, Barking Havering and Redbridge Hospital

Key Messages

GSF Accredited Hospitals wards showed significant improvements in proactive person-centred systematic end of life care including :-

- **early recognition** of patients in the final year of life (average accredited wards **32% patient identified** as being in the last year of life)
- **more Advance Care Planning** discussions offered (**95% Level 1, 75% Level 2 offered ACP**)
- **more proactive care**, needs-based coding, GP communication
- **reduced length of stay**, and re-admissions, more rapid discharge and more dying at home.

Recommended exemplars of best practice

"By delivering earlier recognition and more effective communication with the patients themselves and other professionals in the community, the Gold Standards Framework enables better care for people in the last months of their life. These hospitals should be congratulated for leading the way and being exemplars for others to follow."

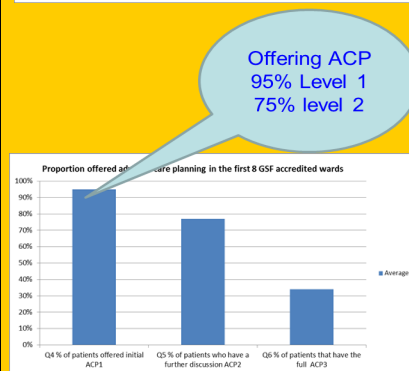
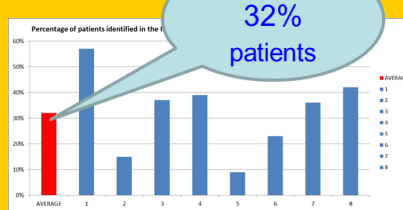
Prof Sir Mike Richards, Chief Inspector of Hospitals at the Care Quality Commission, CQC



Morecambe Bay Hospital team presented with their GSF BGS Quality Hallmark Award by CQC's Prof Sir Mike Richards

Background: A third of hospital patients are in their last year of life, almost 50% of people die in hospital, yet end of life care in hospitals is often poor and most do not die where they would choose. GSF is a well-evidenced widely used UK quality improvement training programme for generalist frontline staff, improving care for people in the final years of life, used in many settings (see below), including 211 wards in 40 acute hospitals with 10 accredited wards. GSF Hospital Accreditation is co-badged by the British Geriatric Society BGS.

Method: The structured 2-year GSF programme includes training, tools, support and evaluation including measures of progress and attainment. GSF encourages teams to identify patients earlier (aiming for the 30% figure where appropriate), assess their needs (offering all initial advance care planning discussions) and proactively planning care aligned to preferences, enabling more to die at home.



Results: Evaluations indicate significant progress in several key areas in many hospitals, most notably in GSF Accredited wards, and a 'culture change'. GSF Accredited wards show embedded and sustaining good practice including:

- earlier identification (32%) of patients in last year of life (Clarke 2014)
- more proactive needs-based approach
- more offered advance care planning (75-95% level 1/2)
- reduced hospitalisation (hospital bed days)
- better communication with GPs, enabling more to live and die where they choose

Conclusion: GSF trained and accredited wards show significant changes, with proactive, better coordinated, person-centred care. Earlier recognition is key and can be attained.



The National GSF Centre in End of Life Care

Is the UK's leading training provider for generalist frontline staff in end of life care, enabling a gold standard of care for all people nearing the end of life, with any condition in any setting.

For further information on the work of the National Gold Standards Framework Centre please see info@gsfcentre.co.uk or visit our website: www.goldstandardsframework.org.uk or call 01743 291897