

Appendix A

Report on the removal of the Liverpool Care Pathway

Following a long period of controversy regarding the Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP), a pathway containing guidance on providing care to the dying, Baroness Julia Neuberger chaired an inquiry into the pathway and its use. The inquiry's findings were reported in July 2013 in "More care, less pathway; a review of the Liverpool Care Pathway". Essentially the inquiry found that the principles of care promoted by the pathway were good and in line with the best available evidence, however its implementation and use in practice were sometimes poor. Therefore the inquiry recommended that the use of the LCP be phased out by July 2014. In response, the Leadership Alliance for the Care of Dying People was formed to provide national guidance for providers of healthcare on the care of dying patients. They published their report "One chance to get it right" in June 2014.

In June 2013 the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust were separate trusts but reacted in very similar ways. Both trusts had removed the Liverpool Care Pathway by September 2013 and put temporary guidance in place to reflect the recommendations of "More care, less pathway" while waiting for the outcome of the Alliance work.

Following the acquisition of Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust in July 2014 the trust started work on a response to "One chance to get it right", informed by the report of the National Care of the Dying Audit for Acute Hospitals. It became clear that all the acute trusts in north London were doing similar work and we agreed to collaborate. In November 2014 representatives from the Royal Free London, UCLH, Whittington and North Middlesex hospitals met and agreed to develop an approach in collaboration. The aim was to create:

- a protocol for care for the dying planning
- a nursing care plan for dying patients
- prescribing guidelines for care in the last few hours and days of life
- a leaflet explaining what to expect and the care planning process for patients and those important to them.

The aim was not necessarily that the forms/leaflets etc would be exactly the same since each trust has small differences, but that the approach and paperwork should be broadly the same and will give guidance on providing the best possible, evidence-based care and support to patients and their loved ones.

Following on from this, the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust completed a pilot of its new paperwork in March 2015 and launched the "Excellent care in the in the last days of life" bundle, in May 2015, which includes a nursing care plan, medical guide, leaflet for patients and relatives and guidelines for use. This is being supported by a robust education programme for trust staff.

National guidance recommended that all acute trusts designate an executive director to have responsibility for end-of-life care. Deborah Sanders, director of nursing, is the trust's designated director.