

## SFHCHS97

# Organise a programme of support following withdrawal from treatment



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### Overview

This standard is about supporting a patient and their family in the patient's decision to withdraw from treatment. It involves the practical implementation of the patient's chosen care pathway by the multidisciplinary team and other care providers. Intrinsic to this competence is acceptance that the patient has the right to reverse their decision where this is possible.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 identify the patient's preference for where care will be delivered after withdrawal from treatment
- P2 identify the palliative care options suitable for the patient
- P3 discuss and agree with the patient, their family and colleagues a plan of care
- P4 arrange resources for delivery of the plan, including liaison with community and primary care colleagues and specialist providers
- P5 where the patient wishes it, arrange a visit to one or more care providers
- P6 brief the patient on exactly how their chosen plan of care would work
- P7 work with the family to help resolve tensions and help the family understand and come to terms with the patient's choice
- P8 brief the multidisciplinary team on the patient's choices and on the option for the patient to reverse their decision where this is possible
- P9 obtain the support of the multidisciplinary team for the patient's decision
- P10 agree the level of contact with the patient following withdrawal from treatment within the required timescales
- P11 obtain the patient's consent to the plan of care and formally record their wishes
- P12 follow up with the palliative care team and evaluate whether the plan is being implemented consistent with the patient's wishes
- P13 evaluate the support given by the care team and promote the patient's choices to them
- P14 establish whether the patient wishes to change their original decision and, if they do, trigger a new plan
- P15 offer further support or counselling for the patient and family if requested

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 principles of informed consent, and how to obtain informed consent from patients
- K2 legal constraints and requirements and ethical practice on withdrawal or withholding of treatment
- K3 psychology of people's response to illness and death, their beliefs, motivation and behaviours
- K4 procedures for checking and documenting consent to a choice of therapy
- K5 belief structures concerning death
- K6 the specific condition and the progression of a patient's condition on withdrawing from treatment
- K7 conditions under which it is possible for a patient to return to treatment
- K8 evidence on patients' ability to make decisions in different states of health
- K9 how to facilitate access to sources of support within the multidisciplinary team
- K10 methods of facilitating discussion on the subject of death
- K11 mediation between family members
- K12 how to obtain full and accurate information about patients
- K13 how to record and store information obtained from patients
- K14 availability of care suitable for patients after withdrawal from treatment
- K15 nature of post- treatment care and means of easing the effects of the illness
- K16 how to manage own feelings and behaviour when communicating with patients
- K17 procedures for forming and recording agreements on a patient's withdrawal from treatment
- K18 procedures for returning to treatment after withdrawal
- K19 how information obtained from patients should be recorded and stored
- K20 how to obtain full and accurate information about patients
- K21 how to ask open-ended questions, listen carefully and summarise back
- K22 methods of communicating sensitive information to patients
- K23 the importance of providing patients with opportunities to ask questions and increase their understanding
- K24 how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people (e.g. culture, language, or special needs)
- K25 the importance of treating patients fairly, and how to do so
- K26 the effects of culture, religious beliefs, age and disability on patient communication styles
- K27 the different features services must have to meet people's gender, culture, language or other needs

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#### Additional Information

##### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs

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**Suite** Clinical Health Skills

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