

## **Title: 'Care of the Dying Pathway' Ipswich Hospital, West Moreton Health Service**

The Palliative Care Team received funding to facilitate the implementation of the Liverpool Care Pathway into practice on the inpatient Palliative Care Unit 6C at Ipswich Hospital. The initial audit of charts was conducted early 2006 and based on these results it was decided it would be benefit patient care to introduce the pathway. In January 2007 a project manager was appointed to coordinate the creation of the clinical pathway and subsequent introduction into the unit. The 'Care of the Dying' Pathway was devised in consultation with the Palliative Care Multidisciplinary Team and this was followed by a numerous educational sessions to all staff in preparation for commencement on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007. We have to date cared for approximately 10 patients on the pathway and are planning to repeat the audit of charts in April 2007.

Some comments to date around the use of the pathway include: it is time consuming to start a patient on the pathway, occasional it is forgotten and not used for suitable patients and on some occasions it was felt that a patient who could have benefited from being on the pathway, did not get the opportunity to be put onto the pathway as they died too soon. Given the short time frame since the commencement date and low numbers of patients within this introductory period, it could be expected comments would not be positive, given the time consuming nature of the extra paperwork for busy staff members. Some resolution is expected to occur with staff familiarity with the paperwork and general use of the pathway.

### **Team members involved and contact details**

Dr Judith McEniery, Palliative Care Specialist, West Moreton Health. Phone 3810 1440 Email [Judith\\_Mceniery@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Judith_Mceniery@health.qld.gov.au)

Jane McEniery, NUM Palliative Care Unit, Ipswich Hospital, West Moreton Health. Phone 3810 1440 Email [Jane\\_McEniery@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Jane_McEniery@health.qld.gov.au)

Linda Hardy, Nursing Director, Medical Business Unit, Ipswich Hospital, West Moreton Health. Phone 3810 1291 Email [Linda\\_Hardy@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Linda_Hardy@health.qld.gov.au)

Multidisciplinary Team Palliative Care Unit, Ipswich Hospital, West Moreton Health Phone 3810 1440

### **Project expected outcome(s)**

- Improved comfort measures and symptom control
- Psychological/insight measures documented and integrated into care plan
- Religious/spiritual support needs assessed, documented and initiated as required
- Improved communication with patient/family including support and information provision
- Communication within the GP will be mapped and documented
- Improved assessment and control of symptoms
- Improved staff communication, confidence and co-working with hospital and specialists

Jane McEniery  
NUM Palliative Care Unit  
Ipswich Hospital, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007