caringathomeproject.com.au

Terminal care planning checklist for GPs and NPs in primary care

The role of the general practitioner (GP) or nurse practitioner (NP) in end-of-life care includes the development of a terminal care management plan[1]. This supports the third clinical process in the Prompts for End-of-Life Planning (PELP) Framework™.

This document provides a checklist to support the development of a terminal management care plan to guide the care for a person at home in their final hours, days, or week.

Note: The person's terminal care management plan should be shared with other relevant health professionals.

CLEAR

Actions	Completed
Advance care planning (ACP) and medical goals of treatment	
ACP documents reviewed	☐
Substitute decision maker/s identified	☐
Medical goals of treatment plan reviewed	☐
Documentation	
Not for resuscitation (NFR) available in the home	☐
Expected death at home documentation available	☐
Process in place for who will complete the verification of death documentation	☐
Person/organisation to complete Medical Certificate of Cause of Death identified	☐
Symptom management	
Comprehensive symptom assessment completed	☐
Cardiac defibrillator deactivated if applicable	☐
Medicines prescribing and deprescribing	
Medicines review: • Non-essential medicines ceased • Essential medicines converted to subcutaneous, dermal, or sublingual routes	☐
Anticipatory medicines prescribed	☐
Written orders and medicines are available in the home	☐
Process in place for who is to write continuing scripts and orders	☐
Pharmacy identified and process to obtain medicines in place	☐
Family/carers	
Family/carers aware of process for out of hours support	☐
Family/carers aware of need to keep sufficient supply of medicines in the home	☐
Family/carers provided with a checklist for immediate after-death care	☐
Cultural and spiritual needs addressed/considered for family/carers	☐
Bereavement care considered for family/carers	☐

© BSPCC 2025. This work is openly licensed by CC BY-NC-ND https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/

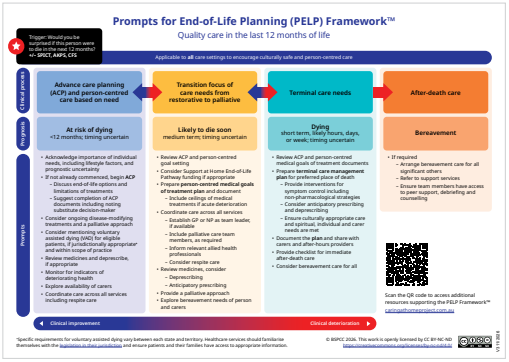
V1.2 11/2026

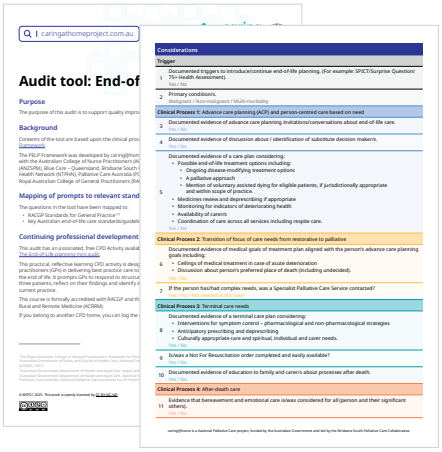
Other useful caring@home resources

Prompts for End-of-Life Planning Framework™

Implementation of the Prompts for End-of-Life Planning (PELP) Framework™ helps health professionals deliver quality person-centred care in the last 12 months of life.

It guides proactive, quality end-of-life care across all care settings and encourages identification of patients at risk of deteriorating and dying, prompting meaningful conversations about their goals and preferences. These ongoing discussions help create person-centred management plans that reflect the person's wishes and reduce making difficult decisions during emotional times.





Audit Tool: End-of Life Planning

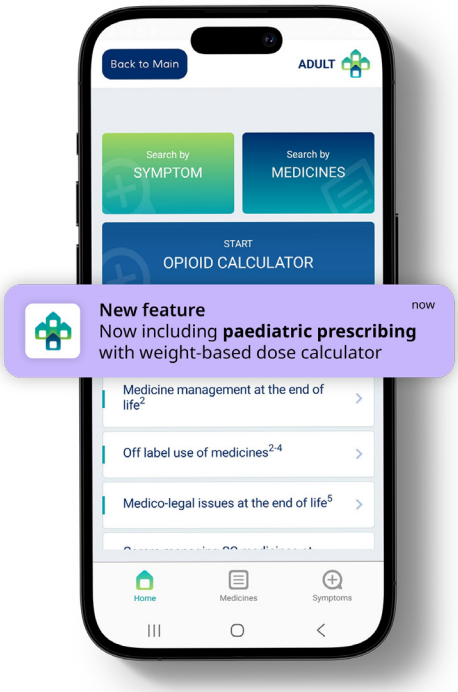
The Audit Tool: End-of-Life Planning supports quality improvement in caring for patients likely to be in their last year of life and is based upon the clinical processes outlined in the PELP Framework™.

The audit tool prompts are mapped to RACGP Standards for General Practice and key Australian end-of-life care standards/guidelines for quality end-of-life care. Auditing using real cases provides the opportunity to review and reflect, then establish specific processes to improve practice.

palliMEDS app

The palliMEDS app supports primary care prescribers to provide optimal symptom management to their patients in the community.

It contains prescribing advice about palliative care medicines, including those from the National Core Community Palliative Care Medicines List, used to manage common emergent symptoms in home-based patients during the last weeks of life when swallowing becomes difficult. The prescriber can search by symptom or medicine, use the opioid calculator for conversions, read dosing considerations and symptom and medicine information, and look up TGA-PBS listings.



GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

caring@home is a National Palliative Care project, funded by the Australian Government and led by the Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative.

[1]The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. RACGP aged care clinical guide (Silver Book). 5th ed. East Melbourne, Vic: RACGP, 2019. Available from: https://www.racgp.org.au/silverbook

Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC.