Abstract Title

Development of a Terminal Care Planning Checklist for nurses in the community

Preferred presentation type
Oral presentation

Theme/topic – Choose 1

- Redesigning End-of-Life Care in the Community: Aged Care at the Centre

Authors

Jane Stephens
Ruth Ikobe
Karen Cooper
Liz Reymond

Abstract – 300 words

Background
When death at home is preferred, proactive planning and caring is essential. As primary care teams increasingly manage end-of-life care with limited specialist input, community nurses—whose roles span diverse care needs—require structured support. Without clear prompts, key planning steps may be missed, leading to unwanted hospital admissions and unmet patient wishes.

Aims
caring@home aimed to develop a simple, evidence-based checklist to support community nurses in proactively planning for a home death.

Methods
Internet and database searches found no existing checklists to support community nurses in planning for a home death. Community nursing services providing palliative care were consulted and confirmed that a resource to support this planning would be a valuable resource to enrich practice. A multidisciplinary working group developed an evidence-based checklist, which was reviewed by specialist and community nurses across multiple services. Feedback was incorporated to refine the checklist, improving its relevance and value in guiding consistent, proactive end-of-life planning.

Results
The terminal care planning checklist for nurses in the community outlines key actions to plan care for a person in their final hours, days or week of life. It aligns with the terminal care phase of the Prompts for End-of-Life Planning (PELP) framework. Designed as an iterative tool, the checklist allows multiple nurses to contribute across care episodes. It has been well

received nationally, receiving over 120 views per month with a strong download rate of 67% confirming its value in supporting quality end-of-life care at home.

Conclusion

The Terminal Care Planning Checklist supports community nurses to proactively plan for end-of-life care at home. Through the identification of key planning actions, it may help reduce unwanted hospital admissions and increase the likelihood of home deaths being realised, aligning care with patient preferences and improving coordination across nursing teams.