

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE SYRINGE DRIVER MANAGEMENT BY COMMUNITY NURSES FOR END-OF-LIFE INPATIENTS ON TEES, ESK, WEAR & VALLEY NHS TRUST (TEWV) WARDS

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VALIDITY – Policies should be accessed via the Trust intranet to ensure the current version is used.

CHANGE RECORD

Version	Date	Change details
1.0	Oct 2023	New SOP. Approved at Community Clinical Network Group (19 October 2023).

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. SCOPE	3
3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	3
4. PROCEDURES.....	4
5. RELEVANT HFT POLICIES/PROCEDURES/PROTOCOLS/GUIDELINES	4

1. INTRODUCTION

Inpatients on TEWV mental health wards within our locality sometimes become end-of-life during their admission. In some of these cases remaining and being cared for on that inpatient unit is their best place of death. The TEWV clinical team will have carefully assessed and agreed this with the patient or in their best interest with their family and MDT.

The TEWV inpatient team can provide palliative care to patients including caring for them in their last weeks and days of life, with the exception of management of syringe drivers. Due to the rarity of patients on their unit requiring a syringe driver, it is not realistic for TEWV nursing staff to develop and maintain competence in management of syringe drivers.

The occurrence of patients requiring a syringe driver in these settings is very low, for example from 2021 -2023 there has one patient requiring a syringe driver over two inpatient units. During height of covid they had increased deaths and need for syringe drivers, but this is considered exceptional.

Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust (HTFT) community nurses have historically provided the care and management of syringe drivers for this group of TEWV inpatients. This SOP has been developed to bring clarity to the process, to ensure there is no delay to patients receiving the optimal symptom management at End of Life and no confusion for our staff about registering patients with our community nursing service and our role and responsibilities in relation to this care.

2. SCOPE

This procedure is intended to inform and guide the practice of all staff in the service, particularly community nurses and the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) team.

This procedure relates to end-of-life inpatients on syringe driver being cared for in TEWV ward settings within HTFT community division service area; Springwood Unit in Malton and Cross Lane Hospital in Scarborough, the case of Cross Lane Hospital, this is most likely to be Rowan Lea Ward.

Patients must have an NHS number to be registered. They DO NOT need to be registered with a local GP. If they have an NHS number they can be registered for this support in this circumstance, regardless of the location of their normal GP in England. The patients are under the medical care and responsibility of the TEWV medical team and therefore it is not appropriate or necessary to refer to a new GP. We will not be applying a charge for this service.

3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff will be aware of this SOP and will work in accordance with it.

SPOC: to process referrals and register patient with appropriate community nursing team safely and accurately.

Community Nursing Team: To provide care and management of syringe driver.

TEWV medical and ACP team are medically responsible for the patient, including assessing and prescribing palliative medications in syringe driver. They will use the York and Scarborough Anticipatory and Syringe Driver Chart to prescribe.

TEWV ward MDT are responsible for the care of the patient, including assessing and planning their end-of-life care. Ward RNs are additionally responsible for assessing and administering of PRN injectable palliative medications if required. The ward team will liaise with St Catherine's for specialist palliative care advice and support.

4. PROCEDURES

- TEWV ward staff to refer patient via SPOC during SPOC operational hours only (8am-6pm 7 days a week)
- Referral for Community Nurse management of syringe driver for symptom management at end-of-life
 - For patients in Springwood Unit, Malton referral should be allocated to Ryedale District Nurse team. For patients in Cross Lane Hospital, referrals should be allocated to Danes Dyke District Nurse Team. Referrals can be reallocated after initial referral in relation to managing capacity if necessary.
 - Referral In reason “End of life Care”
 - Record Referrer as “Springwood Unit, Tees Esk Wear & Valley NHS Trust” or “Cross Lane, Tees Esk Wear & Valley NHS Trust”. Depending on the patient location.
- Community Nurse Team to accept referrals and visit as required to assess and manage syringe driver aspects as per Trust protocol [Syringe Driver Protocol Prot525.pdf \(humber.nhs.uk\)](#). This will include setting up the first infusion and all subsequent repriming.
- Community nurses to only follow prescribing information and instruction from a **York and Scarborough Anticipatory and Syringe Driver Chart**. The prescription will be completed by TEWV medical team or Non-Medical Prescriber.
- Syringe Driver and consumables related to syringe driver to be provided by community nursing team.
- Community Nursing Team to be available to provide advice, support and visit to troubleshoot regarding any concerns regarding the syringe driver 24 hours. The TEWV ward team will contact SPOC to request this support.
- TEWV ward team to notify community nurses of any changes to the syringe driver medication and to agree when this change will be implemented, for example at next time pump is due to be reprimed or sooner.
- TEWV ward team to ensure adequate supply of relevant syringe driver medication is available.
- TEWV team to notify community nurse if patient dies and to enable the community nurses to arrange collection of syringe driver and any remaining related consumables.
- TEWV team to involve the community nursing team in any reflective debrief related to the patient's end-of-life care if appropriate.

5. RELEVANT HFT POLICIES/PROCEDURES/PROTOCOLS/GUIDELINES

[Syringe Driver Protocol Prot525.pdf \(humber.nhs.uk\)](#)