PALLIATIVE and END-OF-LIFE CARE FRAMEWORK – LAST 12 MONTHS OF LIFE

HOME and COMMUNITY SERVICES
(includes general practice, home-based and residential aged care services and facilities)

Advance care planning and patient-centred care based on need
Transition of focus of care needs from restorative to palliative: patient-centred medical goals of care
Terminal care needs including bereavement plan

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Clinical processes across all care settings

At risk of dying – prognosis less than 12 months, but timing may be uncertain

- Acknowledgement of uncertainty of prognosis and individual need
- If not already commenced, begin advance care planning
- Ongoing active treatment ± palliative approach
- Medication review and deprescribing as appropriate
- Continue clinical management while monitoring for indicators of deteriorating health
- Care coordination and liaison across hospital and community services

Likely to die soon – medium term, but timing may be uncertain

- Review by treating clinician: care focus now palliative
- Review advance care planning and patient-centred goal setting
- Clear medical management planning (including limitations of medical treatment) after episodes of acute deterioration
- Medication review and deprescribing as appropriate
- Palliative approach for symptom management and psychosocial and family support (treating team ± specialist palliative care service)
- Care coordination and liaison across hospital and community services

Dying – short term, timing may be uncertain but likely within one week

- Review by treating clinician
- Review advance care planning and goal setting, if appropriate
- Clear management planning (including limitations of medical treatment) relevant to preferred place of death
- Interventions for symptom control, meeting spiritual and individual needs, family support, etc.
- Medications only for symptom control
- Provision of culturally appropriate terminal care
- Begin bereavement care for significant others

Clinical improvement
Clinical deterioration
Clinical improvement
Clinical deterioration
Clinical improvement

Important aspects of clinical care across all care settings

Adapted from:
3. Reymond L et al. End-of-life care: Proactive clinical management of older Australians in the community. AFP 2016; 45(1-2)

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