

What is EPaCCS?

Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination System



Throughout the NHS your health care records are currently kept and accessed by healthcare professionals caring for you. However, they may not be able to access them and EPaCCS is a mechanism which will allow this to happen, to ensure that all healthcare professionals are aware of your preferences and wishes.

What is EPaCCS?

Communication and coordination between health care professionals is essential to providing high quality care for patients with life limiting and long term conditions.

The Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination System (EPaCCS) records and shares this information in an electronic record that can then be viewed by health care professionals.

As a patient you may well have views about your care:

- what you would like to happen
- where you want to receive care
- and even things you wish to avoid.

This is known as Advance Care Planning (ACP). It may help to include your family and carers when making these plans.

What will EPaCCS provide for me?

EPaCCS can be accessed by any health professional who may be caring for you including your GP, district nurses, specialist nurses, Macmillan nurses, hospices and some hospital services.

It can be particularly useful for professionals, such as out of hours doctors and night nursing services that are less acquainted with you, to know what type of care they should deliver to you.

Regular meetings called Gold Standards Framework (GSF) meetings are held to allow the professionals involved in caring for you to meet together to help plan your care and if necessary to update any information on EPaCCS according to your wishes and preferences or changes in your condition.

Do you need my permission to include my details on EPaCCS?

You will be asked by one of the health care professionals caring for you for permission to include your details on EPaCCS and for consent to share this

What sort of information will be shared?

EPaCCS will record:

- ◇ Your diagnosis
- ◇ What medications you are prescribed
- ◇ Where you would prefer to be cared for
- ◇ Decisions you have made about your care, including resuscitation
- ◇ Next of kin details and who you would wish to speak for you if you are unable to make decisions in the future

Your health care professionals will regularly discuss your condition with you and update your EPaCCS record if your condition or wishes change.

Who will have access to my information?

Your information will be held securely on a computer system and will be available only to the health care professionals caring for you. The information may also be used to help plan the best services in the future. If it is used in this way it will be made anonymous.



What happens if I do not want to have an EPaCCS record?

- ◇ You will not be included without being asked first.

- ◇ You can change your mind at any time. Let one of your health care professionals know and they will close down your record so that professionals can no longer access your record.

Whatever you decide everyone will still give you the best care possible with the information they have but the added benefit of the coordination and communication provided by EPaCCS may be lost.