



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



PALLIATIVE
CARE

National Clinical Programme for Palliative Care

Eligibility Criteria for Access to & Discharge from Specialist Palliative Care Services

1. Eligibility criteria for access to Specialist Palliative Care (SPC) services

Patients with both:

- An advanced, progressive, life-limiting condition
- and
- Current or anticipated complexities relating to symptom control, end of life care-planning or other physical, psychosocial or spiritual needs that cannot reasonably be managed by the current care provider(s)

It is recognised that there are “grey areas” and individual referrals may be discussed with the local SPC team so as to assess their appropriateness

SPC teams are always available to advise or support other professionals in their delivery of palliative care.

2. Criteria for discharge from SPC services

- There is a change in disease status such that the patient no longer has any specialist palliative care needs e.g.
 - Following response to treatment
 - Disease evident as only slowly progressive
 - Investigations reveal less advanced disease than previously thought
- There is symptomatic improvement such that the patient no longer has SPC needs.
- Rehabilitation goals have been achieved
- Following initial SPC assessment, it is determined that the patient does not have SPC needs and that ongoing needs are more appropriately met by other health care agencies.
- The patient, following informed discussion, requests discharge from SPC.
- The patient or family persistently prevent effective SPC input e.g. restricting access for assessment.

The SPC team should always be available to re-engage as appropriate or to offer support to other involved Health Care Professionals.