

What can you do if you have more questions?

You or your relative/advocate can speak to the doctors and nurses on your ward.

If you want to talk to someone not involved in your care you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01296 316042.

Or if you would like to speak to your Consultant at a time other than the ward round they can be contacted via their Secretaries through the switchboard on 01296-315000.

How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the entrance to every ward before coming in to or after leaving the ward. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

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Considering your treatment options (the Treatment Escalation Plan)

Patient information leaflet

If you require a translation or an alternative format of this leaflet please call PALS on 01296 316042

What is this leaflet about?

This leaflet is to help you prepare for a conversation with your clinical team about your treatment options and limitations. We call this your Treatment Escalation Plan (TEP).

Why is this conversation important?

This is so that we can explain to you which treatments may or may not be suitable for you depending on the condition that has necessitated you coming into hospital and to understand what treatments you would prefer to have or not to have.

You will have your own idea of what quality of life would be acceptable for you and what you would or would not want to risk.

What options do you have?

Like many patients you may not know what further treatment escalation options there are, and we may not know what you would prefer so a discussion is useful. You may wish to have every available treatment which may or may not be feasible, or you may not want specific treatment options which are available e.g. blood transfusions, or invasive ventilation.

There may be treatments which are available but not suitable for you due to the advanced nature of your condition or due to other life-limiting conditions such as advanced cancer, your team will explain this to you if this is relevant to you.

Can you refuse or demand treatment?

In this country, by law, you have the right to refuse treatment, but neither you nor your relatives or advocates have the right to demand a specific treatment. This includes attempted revival (resuscitation) in the event of an in-hospital death.

Who has the final say in your care?

The Consultant in charge of your care has the final say, but will have taken your wishes into consideration when making a decision about you. In particular if you are too confused or ill to talk about your treatment, your Consultant will decide how to treat you based on your medical history, and discussions with your relative or advocate to find out what you would want.

What can you do if you disagree with your Consultant?

You have the option to request a second opinion from another Consultant who has knowledge and expertise in the same specialty.

How are decisions about your treatment recorded?

A standard form is completed for you and kept in your clinical notes so that all teams involved in your care share the same treatment plans for you.