



A Palliative Approach
in Residential Care

Invitation and Family Questionnaire

Palliative Care Case Conference

Important Information

A palliative care case conference has been organised for:

Name of resident: _____

Date: ___/___/___ Time: _____

Location: _____

Your facility contact for this case conference is:

Name of staff member: _____

Telephone: _____

Please read through this brochure. It answers some frequently asked questions about palliative care and specifically palliative care case conferences.

It also provides a section for you to write down any questions or issues you wish to have addressed at the case conference.



Some Frequently Asked Questions About Palliative Care Case Conferences

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is the support of people who are suffering from an illness from which no cure can be anticipated. Symptoms that can no longer be cured are managed with excellent comfort care. The aim of palliative care is to maximise the quality of the person's life. This is achieved by coordinating and delivering a range of services in response to the individual needs of the person being cared for and their family. It is recognised that a range of problems, including physical, emotional, social and spiritual may need attention.

Is my family member dying very soon?

People often confuse the terms 'palliative' and 'terminal'. When a person is in the terminal phase of an illness they are expected to die within days or weeks. People who require palliative care often live for months and sometimes years.

What is a palliative care case conference?

A palliative care case conference is a meeting held between a resident, their family, and the aged care team.

The aim is to identify clear goals of care for your relative including a review of any advance care plans.

The case conference provides a safe environment where issues and questions about end-of-life care can be raised and appropriate strategies agreed upon.

Common topics that may be discussed:

- What is known about the resident's current condition?
- How is the resident's condition likely to progress over the next few months?
- How will nursing, medical and facility staff manage this progression?
- Do the resident and/or family have any specific wishes concerning end-of-life care and treatment?
- Anything else that is troubling or worrying you or your relative.

Who from my family should attend the palliative care case conference?

This is your decision. Any concerned family member or friend is welcome to attend. We also encourage the resident to attend the case conference (if they have the capacity to do so).

Please note: it is important that those with legal decision-making responsibilities for the resident are present.

Family Questionnaire

Please complete this brief questionnaire and return to the facility contact prior to the case conference if possible.

1. What are the main issues/concerns for you at the moment?

2. How upset/worried are you about these concerns? (Please tick relevant circle)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not at all

As worried as
I could possibly be

3. What questions would you like answered at the case conference?

If you think of other questions between now and the case conference, please write them down and bring them with you on the day.

Please return this section to the facility contact prior to the case conference if possible. Having your input ahead of time will significantly help the staff prepare for the case conference.

Invitation and Family Questionnaire

Palliative Care Case Conference

© The University of Queensland

The University of Queensland/
Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre

www.uq.edu.au/bluecare



A Palliative Approach
in Residential Care

