

# SA Palliative Care Community Pharmacy Update

A joint initiative of South Australian Palliative Care Services

Community pharmacists are uniquely placed as primary healthcare providers to regularly and informally interact with people living with life limiting illnesses and their carers. The new state-wide referral form will allow pharmacists to help these people access specialist palliative care services across South Australia if needed.

## NEW State-wide Palliative Care Referral Form

Care for people with a life-limiting illness is often provided by a mix of primary health care providers. Referral to specialist palliative care teams should be made when the person's needs cannot be met by the primary care team.

Referrals can be made by any primary health professional (including pharmacists) and the individual or family members/carer.

### Eligibility

A person is eligible for referral to specialist palliative care services if:

- > They have a progressive, life limiting illness
- > They or their decision maker, is aware of, understands and has agreed to a palliative care referral
- > The primary goals of patient care are to control symptoms, maximise function, maintain quality of life and provide comfort

### Reasons for referral

- > The patient requires a palliative care assessment and provision of service information
- > Symptoms and/or concerns that exceed the capacity, resources, knowledge or skills of the primary care provider
- > Difficulty maintaining care at place of residence
- > Terminal care (patient is in the last few weeks of life)

### Key information for referrers

- > A PDF version is available for download on the SA Health [website](#).
- > Completed forms can be faxed to the relevant palliative care service and will be processed within working hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm.
- > If the matter is urgent or if the referral does not meet the criteria, but the patient would benefit from specialist palliative care, please contact the closest palliative care service.
- > If there is other relevant patient information that is not specified on the form, but would assist in care provision, please include with the form.

Development of the state-wide referral form is the first, of a number of initiatives, currently being progressed by the Palliative Care Clinical Network to help create a more consistent approach to palliative care service provision across the state.

### Useful resources

- > Palliative Care Services in SA Health [website](#) (including referral form)
- > SA Health Palliative Care Clinical Network [website](#)

### For more information

Contact the Advanced Practice Pharmacists:

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