



Skanda Vale Hospice

Referral Criteria

Information for Healthcare Professionals

- Skanda Vale Hospice is a nurse-led palliative care service supported by a medical team, providing personalised care and support tailored to the individual needs of each patient and their family and friends.
 - Please note that at this time, we are not currently able to offer end-of-life care at the hospice.
 - Assessments include physical, psychological and spiritual needs, and those of friends and family.
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Current Services:

- **Planned inpatient respite:** We currently offer up to five consecutive days of respite per month for up to six patients, all within a single week each month. We plan to expand this service in the future as resources allow.
 - **Day hospice:** Available every Wednesday, generally on a fortnightly basis, for up to eight sessions. This is followed by a review and appropriate ongoing support or signposting to other services outside Skanda Vale Hospice.
 - **Remote companionship:** Available via phone or video call for patients and/or their families and friends. We offer regular appointments over eight sessions, followed by a review and appropriate ongoing support or signposting to other services outside Skanda Vale Hospice.
 - **Future / advance care planning:** Offered as part of an ongoing service or as a standalone option.
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Referral Criteria

We welcome referrals for adult patients (over 18) with a diagnosis of a terminal, life-limiting illness with current palliative care needs, including:

- Metastatic malignant disease
- Non-malignant conditions such as:
 - Advanced neurological conditions.
 - Other life-limiting diseases which are approaching the terminal stage eg: respiratory disease or heart or kidney failure.

Exclusions

Unfortunately, we are unable to care for:

- Patients with a dementia diagnosis, unless this is in the very early stages and is in addition to another life-limiting condition.
 - Patients with highly complex care needs that we assess to be beyond our capacity to meet safely.
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Inappropriate Referrals

Referrals that are inappropriate include:

- Patients with chronic stable diseases or disabilities with a life expectancy of several years (with the exceptions outlined below).
- Cognitively able patients who decline referral or are unaware of their underlying disease.

Possible exceptions:

We may consider the following referrals on a case-by-case basis:

- Patients experiencing prognostic uncertainty while undergoing active treatment.
- Patients and their families who have recently received a diagnosis and are experiencing psychological distress, even with a prognosis extending years.

In such instances, we can offer a fixed number of support sessions via the Remote Companion Service or Day Hospice. After these sessions, Skanda Vale Hospice remains available for phone advice and re-referral as needed.

Consent Requirement:

- No referral will be accepted without obtaining the patient's consent.
 - If a patient lacks the mental capacity to decide about referral and admission to hospice services and there is no appointed Lasting Power of Attorney for Health and Welfare or Court Appointed Deputy, the decision to admit must be made in their best interests in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and its Code of Practice.
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Responsibility of the Referrer:

When making a referral, please ensure you have gathered all relevant contact details and appropriate clinical information. Incomplete referrals will need to be returned to the referrer for more information and we will only be able to process them once they have been completed fully.