



# GALWAY HOSPICE FOUNDATION

## PATIENTS CHARTER

PI-CS-8 Rev. 0 Active Date 24/07/17

### **Access to Safe and Effective Services**

We will provide access to appropriate and timely care in a safe environment, delivered by competent, skilled, and trusted professionals. Patient safety and infection prevention and control are paramount and are at the centre of our patient care.

### **Dignity and Respect**

You have the right to be treated in a courteous manner, with dignity, respect and compassion by every member of the hospice staff. We respect diversity of culture, beliefs, values and other characteristics such as age, gender, sexual orientation, faith, disability, in line with clinical decision making. End of life care is delivered in a caring, respectful and compassionate environment.

### **Religious Beliefs**

You have the right to be treated with respect for your religious and philosophical beliefs. The Hospice's pastoral care service is available for all patients. Ministers from all religions are welcome to visit patients in the hospice.

### **Positive and Negative Comments**

We welcome your complaints and feedback about our care and services. We will work to address any concerns that you may have. You have the right to complain about any aspect of the hospice service, to have the complaint investigated and to be informed of the outcome as soon as possible.

Complaints can be made to any staff member, and will be handled as per our Complaints Policy. You are also invited to complete our ongoing Comment Form which records positive or negative comments on your experiences at the hospice. This information helps us to continually improve our quality standards.

### **Communication and participation concerning your care and treatment**

You have the right to be informed of the name of the Consultant and staff responsible for your care, and to request further information regarding your Consultant. You have the right to be informed of the nature of your illness or condition in a language that you can fully understand.

You have the right to seek a second opinion, and our staff will endeavour to facilitate your request within the medical resources available.

We encourage you to participate in your care, to ask questions and seek clarity and understanding. When necessary, interpretative services are available. At various times throughout the year we have supernumerary students on supervised placement from local Universities.

We involve families and carers in shared decision making about patient care and treatment. We will ensure that pain and other symptoms will be assessed and managed appropriately. Our staff and Consultants respect the rights of patients (and in some circumstances the right of the patient's family) to have the prerogative to determine what information regarding their care would be provided to family and others, and under what circumstances.

You have a right on your discharge from hospice to have yourself and your family doctor informed of the nature of your condition, the treatment you received while in the hospice and the medication required by you.

## **Visiting Arrangements**

You have the right to receive visits from your relatives and friends and to decline visitors in line with hospice policy. There is no limit on visiting hours, subject to you being willing and well enough to accept visitors. All visitors are required to check in at the Reception Desk, so that staff can assess if a visit is suitable at that time for you.

## **Privacy and Confidentiality**

You have the right to have your privacy respected, especially when the nature of your clinical condition is being discussed with you, and or, your relatives by hospice staff. You have a right to total confidentiality in respect of your medical records. Confidentiality will be upheld during quality assurance audits. You have the right to request the hospice to make details of your relevant medical records available to you. Your medical record or personal information will not be released to any external organisation without your permission (except in the event of your referral or transfer to another hospital/healthcare professional or as a requirement of statutory obligations).

## **Consent to Treatment**

Generally, treatment should only be given to a patient with his or her informed consent. Informed consent is sought prior to medical and /or invasive investigations or treatments following a discussion of options, alternatives, risks, benefits and expected outcomes. You may request the presence of a person(s) of your choosing during the consent process.

In an emergency situation, the doctor may determine that urgent treatment should proceed without informed consent. You have the right to refuse or discontinue treatment. If you refuse or discontinue treatment, your doctor will inform you about the possible consequences and the responsibilities of your decision.

## **End of Life**

We want to offer people who are nearing the end of their life the highest quality of care and support. We wish to help you live as well as you can, for as long as you can. Therefore, if and when you want us to, we will:

- Listen to your wishes about the remainder of your life, including your final days and hours, answer as best we can any questions that you have and provide you with the information that you feel you need.
- Help you think ahead so as to identify the choices that you may face, assist you to record your decisions and do our best to ensure that your wishes are fulfilled, wherever possible, by all those who offer you care and support.
- Talk with you and the people who are important to you about your future needs. We will do this as often as you feel the need, so that you can all understand and prepare for everything that is likely to happen.
- Endeavour to provide factual and up to date information of your needs and wishes to those who offer you care and support.
- Do our utmost to ensure that your remaining days and nights are as comfortable as possible, and that you receive all the particular specialist care and emotional and spiritual support that you need.
- Do all we can to help you preserve your independence, dignity and sense of personal control throughout the course of your illness.
- Support the people who are important to you, both as you approach the end of your life and during their bereavement. We also invite your ideas and suggestions as to how we can improve the care and support that we deliver to you, the people who are important to you and others in similar situations.