

## **We need to talk about Palliative Care**

### **Anonymous Submission**

I am at present dealing with the very uncoordinated service my mother is receiving. She is 86 and has recently been diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. She is probably in her final weeks, perhaps months of her life and still lives alone with carers and family supporting her. The coordination of her health needs since she has deteriorated with the cancer has been very poor. When I ask the GP something I get asked what does the palliative care nurse think and then when I ask the palliative care nurse something, she replies what does the GP think?

There is a heavy emphasis on taking into account my mums views, yet as she is deteriorating and her thinking processes are declining, there is no triangulation with their assessments with what family members are seeing. Things get started for my mum, e.g. Physiotherapy and Monitoring liquid intake yet no one comes to follow it up or even supply the charts they want us as a family (including my mum) to fill in regarding her liquid input.

My mums calcium levels are creeping up and the GP was keen to suggest hospital to treat this, but my mum does not want to go into hospital so when I mentioned a hospital at home service, the GP was sceptical if there would be resources.

I understand GPs are stretched and my mum's health centre is very short staffed, but my mum gets different GPs rather than just one and things don't seem to get followed up. When I have phoned the GPs, I have been told on more than one occasion that my mum has had lots of input and recently had five consultations, when as an 86 year old dying of cancer, surely that is not an issue and it is irrelevant to outline that fact. I am not phoning the GP to accuse them of neglecting my mum, I am trying to inform them of new symptoms and to get updates as her daughter and power of attorney. Until recently my mum could remember the fact they visited her and she could remember what they said, but now she is too tired to remember what they tell her or even if they were there.

I would also like to add in what I would see as improvements in palliative care including how the medics talk to my mum and ask her questions she just says yes to in order to get rid of them.

### **Anonymous Submission**