

TITLE: Oncology and Palliative Care: an integrated model for the West of Scotland

AUTHOR: Mitchell A, Morrison H.

CENTRE: Beatson Oncology Centre, Glasgow

ABSTRACT:

Aims: We present a model of Palliative Care closely integrated with the sarcoma site-specific oncology team at the Beatson Oncology Centre in Glasgow. A recent survey suggests that our method of working may be unique.

Methods: The Sarcoma team at the Beatson Oncology Centre in Glasgow receives approximately 70 new referrals a year. A Consultant in Palliative Medicine has very close links with the Sarcoma Oncology team, and attends the multi-disciplinary team meeting, the ward rounds and is available to see patients at the weekly outpatient clinic. In August 2005, forty-eight Palliative Care Service providers throughout the UK were contacted with a postal questionnaire. They were asked whether they provided an integrated site-specific service for cancer patients.

Results: 35/48 (73%) of Palliative Care Service providers replied to the postal questionnaire. None of those who replied provided an integrated site-specific model of care similar to that, which is provided in the Beatson Oncology Centre.

The benefit of our model of care lies in the flexibility with which the Sarcoma team as a whole can respond to the patients' needs. As these needs change over time the input to the patient from oncology and palliative care can adapt to what is required (Fig1)

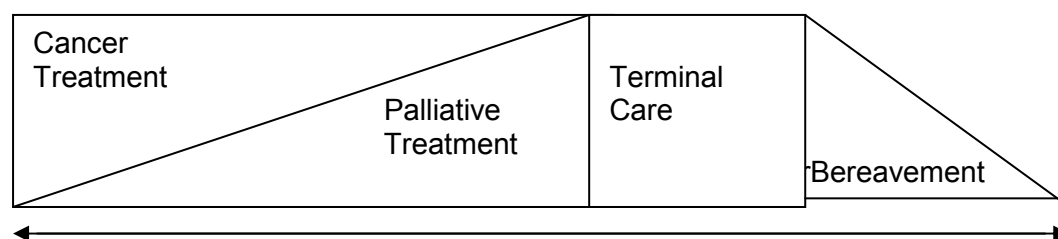


Figure 1 Palliative Care Appropriate

Conclusion: Our unique and flexible integrated approach allows patients access to both oncology and palliative care expertise from diagnosis onwards.