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**THE RESPONSIVE NEEDS TOOL – UNLOCKING COMMUNICATION OF END OF LIFE CARE NEEDS**

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**Introduction** The Lincolnshire Home Deaths Project Group brought together organisations from across the county to

develop new ways of working that were patient focused and to ensure that end of life services dovetailed. This included a night care pilot which identified the need for an assessment and communication tool endorsed by the health and social care community to enable the needs led prioritisation of resource in end of life care.

**Aims** To enable clear, accurate and effective communication of need across organisations to support the allocation and re-allocation of available night care resources for patients at the end of life based on their clinical need.

**Method** The 'responsive need' tool was devised by members of the group using the work of two organisations, St Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice and Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Gold Standards Framework prognostic indicators as a resource.

#### **Results**

- ▶ The tool has become the common 'currency' of Communication County wide and is incorporated into SystemOne palliative care template.
- ▶ It has enabled the provision of End of life care according to need, and stopped unmet need for complex patients in the pilot area.
- ▶ Given clinicians confidence that the care will be there when the patient needs it; releasing care and supporting new ways of working.

**Discussion** This tool has given us a shared language and supported the clinician in their decision making. It has enabled us to achieve the aim of allocating care on the basis of need and urgency.

**Conclusion** The responsive needs tool has supported choice at end of life for patients and would be of interest to both those commissioning and providing end of life care.