The front runner wards were the elderly care, stroke and CCU sectors (38% each), 24% working across both. 27% were based in primary/community care, 36% secondary care and 37% across both settings. 26% participated in multidisciplinary HF meetings and 72% of these had presented cases for consideration of ICD deactivation. 60% were aware of a site-specific ICD deactivation protocol in their workplace, with less knowledge of linking to a regional or DNACPR protocols or ReSPECT process. Where protocols were in place, 42% contained specific guidance for community-based deactivation. Delays in deactivation were limited by staff resource/availability in both community and hospital settings, particularly out of hours, with only 36% feeling that appropriately trained staff and equipment were available out of hours. Prompt access to a magnet for emergency deactivation differed across settings: hospital (62%), hospice (72%), home (33%) and Care Home (22%). Less than half (43%) agreed that PC-HCP had adequate training to facilitate use of the magnet.

Conclusion PC-HCP report significant barriers to ICD deactivation, particularly in the community. Local and regional policy still needs to be standardised across the UK, and education and training provided to enable timely conversations and integrated pathways in place. Further analysis of case vignettes will be presented.

Background Implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) are increasingly used for prevention of sudden death in people with heart failure (HF). Palliative Care health care professionals (PC-HCP) are increasingly caring for patients approaching end-of-life due to progressive HF or comorbidities. Conversations with patients, families and professionals to facilitate ICD deactivation can be challenging, particularly in community versus hospital settings.

Method A survey of PC-HCP was undertaken. Invitations to participate were emailed to hospital and community palliative care teams across the UK. We examined ease of access to appropriate services/personnel from different settings, clarification of whether policies and lines of responsibility were in place, clinical triggers to prompt ICD deactivation and availability of training for staff.

Results 97 HCP responded, of whom 46% were in post >10 years. 59% had cared for <5 patients, 16% 5–10 patients and 3 >30 patients with ICDs in the previous 12 mths. Similar numbers worked in NHS or independent sectors (38% each), 24% working across both. 27% were based in primary/community care, 36% secondary care and 37% across both settings. 26% participated in multidisciplinary HF meetings and 72% of these had presented cases for consideration of ICD deactivation. 60% were aware of a site-specific ICD deactivation protocol in their workplace, with less knowledge of linking to a regional or DNACPR protocols or ReSPECT process. Where protocols were in place, 42% contained specific guidance for community-based deactivation. Delays in deactivation were limited by staff resource/availability in both community and hospital settings, particularly out of hours, with only 36% feeling that appropriately trained staff and equipment were available out of hours. Prompt access to a magnet for emergency deactivation differed across settings: hospital (62%), hospice (72%), home (33%) and Care Home (22%). Less than half (43%) agreed that PC-HCP had adequate training to facilitate use of the magnet.

Conclusion PC-HCP report significant barriers to ICD deactivation, particularly in the community. Local and regional policy still needs to be standardised across the UK, and education and training provided to enable timely conversations and integrated pathways in place. Further analysis of case vignettes will be presented.

Learning from a case report: Developing a checklist to facilitate discharge home from critical care at the end of life

Rebecca Railton, Kalyani Snell, Vanessa Baxter, Tom Doris. The Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Background Achieving patient wishes, including preferred place of death (PPOD), is integral to excellent end of life care. Rapid discharge at end of life has been identified to be a core part of this care in the acute hospital setting. However, what consideration do we give PPOD, when caring for patients in the critical care (CC) setting? We outline a case report and evolution of a checklist to help streamline this process, ensuring patient safety and improved patient care.

Methods We describe a patient with Guillain Barré Syndrome who was ventilated via a tracheostomy on critical care. After a lengthy admission with no improvement, his discharge home for withdrawal of invasive ventilation and end of life care was jointly supported by the critical care and palliative care teams. Following reflection and learning from this and other cases, the complexities involved with a discharge of this type were identified. To achieve safe and effective care and provide direction to a process unfamiliar to many, a joint checklist was developed.

Results Our checklist has been well received by the wider critical care and specialist palliative care teams (SPCT). It aims to co-ordinate and clearly identify task responsibility.

Key learning incorporated into the checklist includes:

- Early involvement of the SPCT
- Joint CC & SPCT discussions with family are crucial
- Regular communication between primary and secondary care services
- Avoiding same day or weekend discharge
A REVIEW OF END OF LIFE CARE OF PATIENTS ON THE BUTTERFLY PROJECT

Jolene Brown, Laurie Fortunato, Charlotte Woollaston, Kalyani Snell, Hilary Tedd, Alice Fitzpatrick. The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Foundation Trust

Background Fewer than half of families agree to donation if unaware of their loved one’s decision to be a donor. This rises to over 9 in 10 when the decision is known (organdonation.nhs.uk). All previous research on this topic bar one recent qualitative study has focused on views of health professionals, or relatives.

Aims The aim of this study was to determine the best way to ask about corneal donation; by asking patients directly. Secondary aims were to establish whether patients knew they could donate corneas despite having cancer, if they would donate and if they had registered their wishes.

Methods Twenty patients with a palliative cancer diagnosis, were given a questionnaire to complete anonymously. Questions asked about current understanding and views on organ donation, whether any wishes were registered, and how and when they felt we should ask about donation.

Results 18 completed questionnaires were returned. Only 2 patients were aware that cancer patients can donate corneas. Despite 11 patients stating they had previously considered donation, and 17 stating they would wish to donate, only 4 had registered their wishes online. The same 4 also carried a donor card. The majority felt it didn’t matter who asked (10), or where (16). 11 felt face to face was best although 6 felt it would be acceptable to ask via questionnaire. Patients were divided on when the best timing would be. 15 patients felt we should discuss donation routinely at the time of hospice admission, and the same 15 felt we should routinely ask all patients under hospice care.

Conclusion The majority of patients would consider donating but don’t realise they are eligible to do so. Most patients feel we should routinely ask about donation; even if they did not wish to donate themselves. Education is required to empower health professionals to start conversations.

THE BUTTERFLY PROJECT – IMPROVING TREATMENT ESCALATION PLANNING IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

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Background The 2017 End of Life Care Hospital Improvement Programme (ELCHIP) audit of deaths at the Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI) an Emergency Department (ED) attendance may be an opportunity to proactively identify and plan for deterioration. The clinical frailty scale (CFS) can identify older people at increased risk of deterioration or dying and local data suggests a 1 year mortality rate of 50% in the cohort of patients with CFS 7–9.

Methods The Butterfly Project is a multidisciplinary quality improvement project aiming to increase the percentage of older people CFS 7–9 dying in their preferred place of care, with additional outcomes based on early identification of uncertain recovery and treatment escalation planning.

ED notes were reviewed for all CFS 7–9 patients dying within 30 days of an ED attendance between February 2019 and May 2020. Interventions were broadly within two streams. The first focused on improving treatment escalation planning including verbal and visual prompts and the introduction of the ReSPECT process. The second was based on improving the skillset of ED staff via educational interventions.