



Care after Death delivered in SaTH

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Abstract: To improve care delivered to our patients after death, the Palliative and End of Life Care team created a training video, checklist and prompt to ensure that care is delivered in line with the Trust Care after Death Policy

SMART Aim

To improve the care delivered after death to our deceased patients. Ensuring that the care delivered is in line with the Trust Care after Death Policy and that all documentation is completed correctly for every deceased patient by March 2023.

Plan

Caring for an individual and the people important to them at the end of their life and after death is a privilege and an extremely important part of the care delivered. Delivering high quality care after death is important to those caring for the deceased person, the patient and those people important to the deceased person.

There are several essential processes that happen following the death of our patients and it is important that these are followed to ensure that every deceased patient receives excellent care. The plan was to ensure that all patients:

- Are transferred to the Swan Bereavement Suite within four hours of their death
- All documentation is completed correctly, and all checks are completed
- All devices, such as ET tubes, cannulas, drains etc, are removed as part of the delivery of care after death unless the patient's death is to be reported to the coroner. In this situation all devices will remain insitu

Final checks before placing the deceased person into the deceased person body bag/body wrap

Actions Required	Yes	No	Additional Information
Person responsible for the deceased person have been informed of the patient's death.			This should happen as soon after the deceased person's death as possible if the people responsible for the deceased person are not present at the time of death.
Verify/confirm the patient's death			Follow trust policy to identify who can verify/confirm the death.
The deceased person's identity has been checked and confirmed by the registered nurse			Section 47(1) of the Coroners Act 1988 requires the deceased person's identity has been confirmed.
If the deceased person has dentures place these into their mouth			If the dentures are loose place them in a denture pot and put them with the deceased person and if possible to the Swan Bereavement Suite.
The patient's eyes and mouth are closed			If the deceased person's eyes/mouth are not closed record the reasons on the deceased person handover document.
All cannulae, catheters, drainage tubes etc should be removed, except in the exception of a Coroner's case			
Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICD) - if present, this needs to be deactivated before the deceased person leaves the ward			Contact Cardiorespiratory at PRH or RSBH or CCU out of hours via the hospital switchboard.
The deceased person has two armbands on, one on their wrist and the second on their ankle			Both armbands need to be printed. Addressograph labels cannot be attached to an armband as the ink will fade.
If the deceased person is wearing jewellery secure in place with surgical tape and record on a jewellery sticker. The completed sticker will be issued to the porters. The porter places the sticker in the mortuary logbook.			If the deceased person is wearing jewellery, please secure the jewellery with surgical tape and issue to the porters. The porter places the sticker in the mortuary logbook.
The deceased person should be wearing either their own nightwear/underwear or a Swan hospital gown			Agree the items to be worn with the patient prior to their death or with the porters reported to the deceased person's care.
The witness form has been attached to the deceased person's right/waist and recorded on the deceased person handover document			Place the witness form in a jewellery bag and attach to the right/waist with surgical tape.
The Care after Death card is completed, one is attached to the deceased person's right/waist, being the head of the deceased person. The position of the second card is detailed in the final step of the Care after Death policy.			These must be completed and signed by the registered nurse responsible for the deceased person's care.
All other devices must be removed if the deceased person has a suspected or confirmed infection			An additional sticker needs to be attached to the person's handover document and signed by the registered nurse responsible for the deceased person's care.
The deceased person handover document has been completed ready to handover to the porters			
You are now ready to place the deceased person into the deceased person body bag or body wrap, if a deceased person wrap is used lines between the cover edges with surgical tape			
The Staff Part of Care after Death is to place the second Care after Death card in the deceased person body bag/wrap. This would be facing the head of the deceased person. Once this is attached you will need to attach a white card with the deceased person's name and date of death to the body bag/wrap. See appendix 3 of the Care after Death policy.			An additional patient sticker needs to be attached to the person to place in the mortuary logbook.

Deceased person checklist V2 August 2022

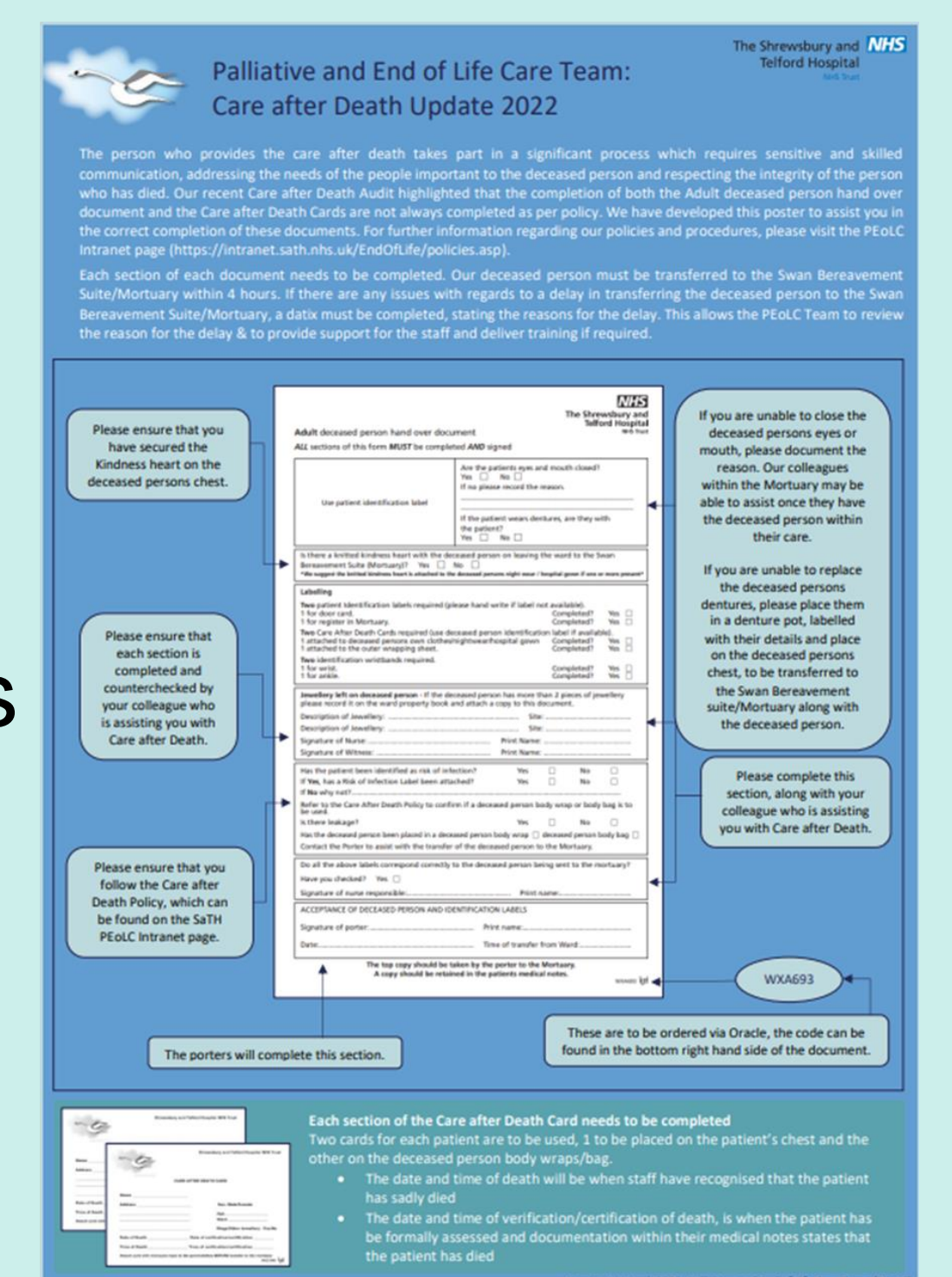
Do

The Palliative and End of life Care team engage with the ward areas and Mortuary team to understand the current gaps in understanding and the reasons why we might not be meeting the standards set.

The Palliative and End of Life Care team have created a video detailing the care delivered following the death of a patient. The video and eLearning module is mandatory for all adult in patient staff and is available on LMS.

The Palliative and End of Life Care team have created a poster explaining the elements of the documentation to be completed.

The Palliative and End of Life Care team have created a checklist to ensure all elements are completed for every deceased patient.



Study

Initial analysis of the data show a slight improvement to some elements, such as transfer from the wards to the Mortuary / Swan Bereavement Suite within 4 hours. A further audit will be done in April 2023 to review embedding of the new tools and highlight any areas for further improvement.



Act

The next steps will be to continue to monitor the provision of care after death, encourage teams to watch the care after death video and complete the eLearning module. The Palliative and End of Life Care team will work with teams to ensure all elements are completed and sustained.