

Improving access to community equipment to support preferred place of care and death



Collaboration between hospice and community equipment services

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Background

Specialist equipment may be needed to enable patients to safely remain in their preferred place of care (PPC) or death (PPD) and maximise their independence within the limitations of their illness. This equipment wasn't easily accessible to therapists and was time consuming to order, which resulted in delays in the provision of equipment when patients needed it in a timely manner. A new system was required to benefit patients and therapists.



Conclusion

After 3 years of work, the peripheral store has led to the following benefits:

- Enabled more patients to achieve their PPC/PPD
- Supported patients to maximise their independence in their own environment
- Reduced administrative time for hospice and social services therapists
- Freed up time for increased face to face interventions
- Reduced delivery costs for social services locality teams
- Increased job satisfaction for hospice therapists

Future Developments

To negotiate with the locality teams that are not currently involved in this project to widen access to equipment.
To resolve challenges in relation to provision of equipment funded by continuing health care.