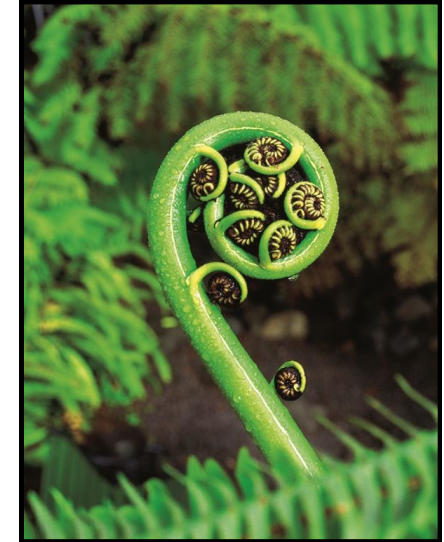


important phone numbers or notes

Dotted lines for notes



**LIVERPOOL CARE PATHWAY
FOR THE DYING PATIENT
(LCP)**

supporting care in the
last hours or days of life

Otago Community Hospice
PO Box 8002
293 North Road, Dunedin
New Zealand

Tel: 03 473 6005
Fax: 03 473 6015
www.otagohospice.co.nz



The doctors and nurses will have explained to you that there has been a change in your relative's or friend's condition. They believe that the person you care about is now dying and in the last hours or days of life.

The LCP is a document which supports the doctors and nurses to give the best quality of care. All care will be reviewed regularly.

You will be involved in the discussion regarding the plan of care for your relative or friend with the aim that you fully understand the reasons why decisions are being made. If your relative or friend's condition improves then the plan of care will be reviewed and changed. All decisions will be reviewed regularly. If after discussion with the doctors and nurses you do not agree with any decisions, you may want to ask for a second opinion.

communication

There are information leaflets available for you as it is sometimes difficult to remember everything at this sad and challenging time. ('Understanding the dying process' and 'Some thoughts on Grief').

The team will ask for your contact details, as keeping you updated is a priority.

You will have the opportunity to discuss with the doctors and nurses what is important to your relative or friend about their wishes, feelings, faith, beliefs and values.

medication

Medication that is not helpful at this time may be stopped and new medications prescribed.

Symptoms will continue to be treated with medications which will only be given when needed.

comfort

The team looking after your relative or friend will make regular assessments of their comfort. They will make sure that as far as possible any needs at this time are met.

You may want to be involved in elements of nursing care at this time. Please feel free to be honest with the staff regarding the level of care you would like to be involved in.

diminished need for food & drink

Loss of interest in and a reduced need for food and fluids is part of the normal dying process. Even when we know a person is dying, it may be difficult to accept their stopping eating or drinking.

We will encourage your relative or friend to take food and fluids by mouth for as long as possible.

Decisions about the use of artificial fluids (a drip) will be made in the best interests of your relative or friend. Fluids given by a drip will only be used where it is helpful and not harmful. This decision will be explained to you and reviewed regularly.

Good mouth care is very important at this time. The nurses will explain to you how the mouth care is given and may ask if you would like to help give this care.

understanding the changes that may occur before death

The length of time from the diagnosis of dying to the time of death is difficult to predict. It might be a matter of hours or days or even longer.

Even when the person dying is settled and comfortable, it may be painful for you to watch this process. Your relative or friend may spend more time sleeping and may often be drowsy when awake.

Even though they may appear to be unresponsive, spending time with them remains worthwhile. When death is very close there may be changes to breathing, skin colour and temperature. You may like to discuss these changes with a health professional.

looking after your relative
or friend as well as
we can is **important to us**

please ask questions
no matter how
insignificant you think
they may be, or how busy
the staff may seem

this situation may be
unfamiliar to you;
part of our job is to **provide**
explanations and support you