



## COVID-19 CLINICAL SOLUTIONS

### **What did you do?**

An EPaCCS (Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination System) is being used by all Practices in Vale of York, Scarborough & Ryedale, and North Lincolnshire to share information about end-of-life patient preferences and care plans with other health/care settings, including hospitals, hospices, OOHs, community, and NHS111. EPaCCS is enabling effective information sharing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Who are you?**

Dr Dan Cottingham, GP, Sherburn Group Practice, Leeds; Macmillan GP Cancer and End-of-Life Lead, Vale of York CCG.

Dr Jenni Lawrence, Locum GP and Macmillan GP Lead, Scarborough & Ryedale Locality, North Yorkshire CCG.

Dr Avinash Haridas Pillai, GP, Riverside Surgery; GP IT Lead, North Lincolnshire CCG.

### **What was the problem?**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a major focus on advanced care planning for our vulnerable patients. Clinicians were relying on often out-of-date information across different electronic and paper systems. A solution was needed to share patients' end-of-life care preferences and plans in real-time between the different health/care providers looking after them.

### **What was the solution?**

EPaCCS enables the recording and sharing of a patient's care preferences and key details about their care at the end of life. As it is electronic it can easily be shared 24/7 between all of the professionals involved in the patient's care across organisational boundaries.

An EPaCCS record can be created, updated, and shared by any member of a patient's health/care team, subject to locally determined pathways. The EPaCCS record is a summary record, intended to provide an easily accessible view of the information that carers need in an end-of-life setting. Some information is pre-populated from the GP record, including, patient demographics, current repeat medications, and diagnoses/problems. Other mandatory fields can be filled collaboratively by different health and care providers, including:

- primary end-of-life diagnosis;
- CPR decision;
- preferred place of care;
- details on anticipatory medication; and,
- preferred place of death.

Clinicians also have the ability to attach key documents to the EPaCCS record, including ReSPECT/DNACPR forms, advance care plans and ADRT.

There has been a significant increase in the use of EPaCCS during the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of May, 2,621 EPaCCS records had been created; the system is accessible to clinicians working remotely and clinicians in ED York Teaching Hospital are able to view EPaCCS directly from their EPR. EPaCCS has supported collaborative working for GSF patients, reduced duplication, and ensures that the most up-to-date view of a patients' preferences and status are visible and updatable across different health and care settings.

EPaCCS is now being rolled out fully across Humber, Coast and Vale.

#### **Where can we find out more?**

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Further information can be found on the Humber, Coast and Vale website:

<https://humbercoastandvale.org.uk/how/digital-futures/#EPaCCS>

<https://bjgp.org>