Why use the SPICT™?

The SPICT™ helps professionals identify people with general indicators of poor or deteriorating health and clinical signs of life-limiting conditions for assessment and care planning.

What will happen to an individual and when is often uncertain. SPICT™ does not give a ‘prognosis’ or a time frame. Identifying people with deteriorating health earlier improves care.

Using SPICT™ in Hospital to assess people’s needs and plan care.

- After an **unplanned hospital admission** or a **decline in health status**: review current care, treatment and medication; discuss future options; plan for managing further deterioration.

- For people with **poorly controlled symptoms**: review and optimise treatment of underlying conditions, stop medicines/treatment not of benefit; use effective symptom control measures.

- Identify people (and carers) with more **complex symptoms or other needs** and consider an assessment by a specialist palliative care service or another appropriate specialist or service.

- **Assess decision-making capacity**. Record details of close family/friends and any registered ‘Power of Attorney’ (POA). Involve them in decision-making if the person’s capacity is impaired.

- Identify people who are **increasingly dependent on others** due to deteriorating function, general frailty and/or mental health problems for additional care and support after discharge.

- Identify people who need **proactive, coordinated care** in the community; contact the primary care team and other community services before discharge.

- Agree, record and share an **Anticipatory Care Plan**; include plans for emergency treatment and care if the person’s health deteriorates rapidly or unexpectedly.

Talking about future care planning

- **Ask**:
  - What do you know about your health problems and what might happen in the future?
  - ‘**What matters**’ to you? What are you worried about? What could help with those things?
  - Who should be contacted and how urgently if your health deteriorates?

- **Talk about**:
  - The outcomes of hospital admission and treatments such as: IV antibiotics; surgery; interventions for stroke, vascular or cardiac disease; feeding tubes; ventilation.
  - Treatments that will not work or have a poor outcome for this person. (eg. CPR)
  - Having a POA in case the person’s decision-making capacity is lost in the future.
  - Help and support for family/ informal carers.

Tips on starting conversations about deteriorating health

- **I wish** we had a treatment for...., but could we talk about what we can do if that’s not possible?
- **I am glad you feel better and I hope** you will stay well, but **I am worried** that you could get ill again...
- **Can we talk** about how we might manage with not knowing exactly what will happen and when?
- **If you** were to get less well in the future, what would be important for us to think about?
- **Some people** want to talk about whether to come back to hospital or be cared for at home....

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