

Below is an update of the work we are doing in response to COVID-19, including that undertaken with and by our partners. We will continue to share information with you regularly via email. If you have any queries relating to any of this content, please contact [england.covid-eolc@nhs.net](mailto:england.covid-eolc@nhs.net).

## Key messages and updates

### PPE reimbursement

Hospices in England are invited to reclaim the costs of PPE purchased to meet the COVID-19 infection prevention and control requirements between 27 February 2020 to 31 March 2020 and between 1 August 2020 and 31 October 2020 from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). A guidance document, setting out the process, has been circulated to all hospices in England by Hospice UK. All claims must be submitted by 5pm on 19 March 2021. Please contact [ppe@hospiceuk.org](mailto:ppe@hospiceuk.org) should you have any further questions.

### Supporting people at the end of life to access benefit payments – new online form

The DS1500 form confirms a diagnosis and treatment plan to allow people at the end of their lives to receive benefits quicker. People may also get benefits at a higher rate or get extra money. The DS1500 form is now available to complete online at [ds1500.dwp.ncrs.nhs.uk](https://ds1500.dwp.ncrs.nhs.uk). The online service is significantly quicker and ensures the patient receives their benefits swiftly. Sign in to the NHS Spine portal using your Smartcard to access the form and download a copy for your patients' records. If you don't have access to the Spine portal, we are currently working on a way for you to access this digital DS1500 too. If you experience issues accessing the DS1500 link, ask your NHS Trust to add it as a 'Trusted site'. For more information, email the DS1500 team at [dwp.digitalds1500@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:dwp.digitalds1500@dwp.gov.uk).

### [Palliative and end of life patient and carer experience research bid](#)

As part of our patient and carer experience workstream we are looking for a researcher/research agency to establish methods of gaining qualitative feedback about PEOLC. The initial focus is on health inequalities and understanding the need and experiences of black, Asian and minority ethnic people who are not proficient in English, and/or whose main language is not English. The methods will be set out as a toolkit to be used by local providers and commissioners to guide quality improvement and provide insights that can be shared nationally. For more details please [visit the .Gov bid finder and register](#). The closing deadline for contract applications is 22 March 2021. We encourage you to share this opportunity through your networks.

### National PEOLC and Ambitions Partnership webinars

Our PEOLC sessions and Ambitions Partnership sessions will be moving to a monthly schedule. Please see below for upcoming topics and details on how to register. Previous slides and Q&A documents can be found on the [Practitioners Network](#).

- **Thursday 18 March, 4-5pm**, Ambitions Partnership for PEOLC webinar. This session will cover dementia, befriending and bereavement. Request an invitation by [emailing.england.covid-eolc@nhs.net](mailto:emailing.england.covid-eolc@nhs.net).
- **Thursday 1 April**. This national PEOLC webinar has been cancelled due to Easter bank holiday.

- **Thursday 15 April, 4-5pm** – Ambitions Partnership for PEO LC webinar. Topic will be shared in future email updates.
- **Thursday 29 April, 4-5pm** – national PEO LC webinar. Topic will be shared in future email updates.

### **Staff wellbeing services**

Where needed there is a full [NHS staff support offer](#), as well as [support offers from non-NHS partners, such as Hospice UK](#).

### **Publications and guidance**

A full list of relevant guidance can be found attached. If you have any queries about guidance, please email [england.covid-eolc@nhs.net](mailto:england.covid-eolc@nhs.net).

[Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation \(DNACPR\) and people with a learning disability and or autism](#). Letter from Prof Stephen Powis, Ruth May, Dr Nikki Kanani, Prof Bee Wee, Claire Murdoch, and Dr Roger Banks. Published 4 March 2021.

[Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation \(CPR\) and Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation \(DNACPR\) information](#). Webpage published by NHS.uk, 10 March 2021.

### **COVID-19 vaccination information and guidance**

The latest NHS England and NHS Improvement vaccination information and guidance can be found on [our website](#). [If you have any queries](#), email the national vaccine operations centre, [england.covidvaccs@nhs.net](mailto:england.covidvaccs@nhs.net). Further information can also be found on the [NHS.uk website](#).

**To note:** NICE is now the single point of advice on caring for people with coronavirus and the management of COVID-19 in different healthcare settings. 24 of the NHS England and NHS Improvement COVID-19 [speciality guides have now moved to its website](#). Please use these live links to ensure you are accessing the most up to date information.

### **🔊 Resources, news and guidance from other organisations**

[COVID-19 symptom management guide for care homes](#). Published by Skills for care, January 2021. This guide has been developed for adult social care managers to support their teams where they're providing care and support to someone with COVID-19 symptoms in residential care, supported living services or in a person's own home. It provides some practical tips for managing symptoms of COVID-19 based on clinical guidance and can be used to guide workers whilst taking into consideration each person's individual wishes, preferences, health and specific needs. Individual employers, personal assistants and unpaid carers may also find it useful.

[Conversations for ethically complex care](#). Published by the Royal College of Physicians, 9 February 2021. This guidance provides a framework for ethical discussions to support decision making and documentation in clinical practice. It outlines a structured, patient-focused approach suitable for use by all professional groups, specialties and in all care settings. It is intended to be disease- or diagnosis-

agnostic and to ensure fair and equitable care for all, without causing harm to their long-term health and wellbeing. The accompanying Ethical Care Decision-Making Record (ECDMR) has been designed for use in more complex situations.

**[Improving access to palliative and end of life care for South Asian communities.](#)**

Published by Compton Care, 19 February 2021. This short video has been created as a tool for professionals to begin conversations with people about advance care planning. The video also encourages people from the community to talk to family and friends about PEOLC. The film has actors speaking in four South Asian languages and includes subtitles in English. Compton Care have produced a variety of [resources to support people from a South Asian background to access PEOLC](#). Documents about grief and support are available in Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi.

**[Dying Matters Awareness Week, 10-16 May 2021.](#)** This week is a chance to bring people and partners together to break the stigma, challenge preconceptions and normalise public openness around death. This year will focus on the importance of being in a good place to die. You can get involved in many ways - from taking the opportunity to have a conversation with colleagues and sharing stories on social media, to actively taking steps to prepare for end of life for you or your loved ones or even holding your own virtual events during the week. You can find more information about the week on the [Dying Matters website](#).

**[Coronavirus Hub from Macmillan Cancer Support. This hub provides the latest guidance for people with cancer, their families and carers. The healthcare professional section includes support for having difficult conversations, advance care planning and emotional health and wellbeing. There is also a section covering end of life care.](#)**

**Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination Systems (EPaCCS) study.** This study, conducted by the University of Leeds, Kings College London and Hull York Medical School, will help to understand how EPaCCS are being used across England and how to best support local implementation. End of life care leads, EPaCCS leads, and clinical commissioning groups with new, established or no EPaCCS are invited to take part in the first part of this project and [complete an online survey](#). The survey will close on 31 March 2021.

### **The Personalised Care Group**

Palliative and End of Life Care Team

If you have been forwarded this update and would like to join our mailing list, or if you no longer want to receive these updates please let us know by emailing [england.covid-eolc@nhs.net](mailto:england.covid-eolc@nhs.net).