

ASKING QUESTIONS CAN HELP

FOR FRIENDS OR CARERS OF PEOPLE APPROACHING THE LAST DAYS OF LIFE

The medical and nursing staff have told you that your relative/friend is dying. You may be overwhelmed by the news or just want to 'take a breath' and think what you need to ask. The purpose of this question list is to help you to get the information you want about your relative/friend's illness and treatment options.

The questions have been divided under headings. You may find that not all questions under each of the headings relevant and there may also be some that you may not want to talk about without or in front of your relative/friend. We suggest that you look at the headings first and then decide whether you wish to read the questions about that topic.

Questions that family members/caregivers may like to ask

What to expect and what changes may occur in the last days of life

What can I expect may happen over the coming days?

What changes will I see in my relative/friend?

What should I do if my relative/friend won't eat very much?

If my relative/friend eats or drinks more, will this make them live longer?

What happens if my relative/friend goes into a coma?

Will my relative/friend go into a coma?

How do I know when he/she has died?

Notes:

Communication

What is my role when my relative/friend is admitted to hospital?

When should I call the rest of the family? What should I say to them? Could you speak with them?

Who can I talk to if I am concerned about the care my relative/friend is receiving?

How can I assist health professionals to talk to my relative/friend in a way that respects their personality/culture?

What should I say when the person that I am caring for asks, "am I dying"?

Will you be able to tell me when it is getting close to the time he/she will die?

What are the times of ward rounds by doctors?

Notes:

Providing care at home in the last days of life

What happens if I can't manage at home?

How do I tell others about what is happening to my relative/friend? Can I get help with this?

Notes:

What happens next?

What happens after he/she dies (eg what happens to their body, how do we arrange the funeral)?

What support is available for the family after the he/she dies?

Notes:

Other questions/notes:

Helpful contact numbers

	Name	Contact number/s
Nurse Manager		
Medical Officer		
Social Worker		
Chaplaincy Service		
Interpreter Service		