

Spiritual and religious beliefs

Some people become more aware of religious beliefs or spiritual feelings. Spirituality can be expressed in many ways, such as through music, arts, nature, or how you relate to your family or community. We have links with all denominations, please let us know should you need assistance with spiritual needs in whichever way this means to you.

Bereavement Support

If you feel you would like more bereavement support, please discuss this with one of our team who will be more than willing to help you at this difficult time should you wish.

Weldmar also offers bereavement support for those who have been cared for by their teams.

In addition there is Dorset Cruse 0808 808 1677 and GP support on request.

If you have any concerns

If you or your family have any concerns about any aspect of your care please let us know straight away. We are not easily offended and would much prefer to be given the opportunity to address any worries in a timely way.

The information in this leaflet is available in additional languages and alternative formats. Please contact the Trust for further details.

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NHS

**Dorset HealthCare
University**

NHS Foundation Trust

Tarrant Ward Blandford Community Hospital

Approaching the final stages of life



Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

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Information for patients, relatives and carers

**Excellence
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About Tarrant Ward

Tarrant Ward is the in-patient unit of Blandford Hospital.

The ward has a Ward Sister and a team of Registered Nurses and Health Care Assistants who deliver the day to day clinical care and treatment. The ward is overseen by Senior Sister Gill Wood, Sisters Kimberly Witt and Donna Rendell and the Hospital Matron, Helen Hunt.

Our Nurse Consultant is Denise Damen and she works Monday to Friday 9-5 and our Consultant is Dr James Richards. Dr Richards visits the ward weekly, normally on a Thursday. We also have GP cover Monday to Friday 9-12.

We work very closely with Weldmar Hospice; Chris Senter the Specialist Nurse from Weldmar also visits the ward frequently.

Our ethos is about caring for the patient as well as their friends and family. We will do what we can to work with you, support you and care for you. If you have any requests that will make life more bearable please do not hesitate to ask. We will always try our best to accommodate your needs and that of your family.

Suites

We have two rooms; Meadow and Bluebell have been created for added comfort and privacy for you and your loved ones:

There is also a visitor's suite which has tea making facilities, bathroom facilities and can provide sleeping arrangements should you wish.

It is okay if you prefer to be in a main bay with other people - just let us know.

Coping with the news

Hearing that you may be nearing the end of your life can be very difficult and distressing. You may experience strong and often overwhelming emotions that make it difficult for you to think clearly. You may need some time on your own or with your relatives or a close friend to think about the future.

Some people find it easier to talk to someone outside their family. If you think this would be helpful, you can talk to any member of the team caring for you here on the ward.

Facing an uncertain future

Although your future may be uncertain, you may still find it helpful to plan ahead and make the most of the days when you feel well. You might want to plan to do something special with your family and friends. There may also be other important things you want to do. The Staff on Tarrant will be only too happy to facilitate whatever they can.

People close to you

Your friends and family are welcome on the ward anytime – day or night. Although we do ask for visitors to be aware that large numbers of people can be overwhelming for the other patients on the ward and for you.

For access out of hours we would advise your family to let the staff know when they're likely to visit. The doors are locked overnight, but can be accessed by staff and opened in advance if needed.

For close family members we can accommodate them sleeping over or even close together with you if this is what you would like; please do ask the team.

Again in relation to close family members they are welcome to use the shower facilities; we have a range of toiletry products that can be provided on request.

Parking is free - please speak to the team if you have any questions regarding car parking arrangements.