

Hospice Palliative and End of Life (PEoLC) Virtual Ward (VW) Pilot 26/27

Sussex Hospice PEoLC Virtual Ward Patient Cohort

The hospice PEoLC Virtual Ward provides short term (up to 14 days) specialist acute level support for adults living with palliative illness who wish to be cared for in their own home, (including nursing and care homes)

What is the Hospice Palliative and End of Life Virtual Ward offering?

Specialist palliative oversight and rapid decision making to achieve preferred place of care and personal wishes

All patients and families will be supported by 24/7 direct telephone access for advice and escalation during their admission

Hospice PEoLC VW support may include;

- Complex symptom control
- Sub cut and syringe driver delivery of medications
- Medicines optimisation for palliative needs and comfort
- Remote monitoring

✓ **Service available for adults with palliative care and registered with a GP in one of our catchment areas.**

Please note

- **The VW is not intended for long-term condition management, proactive deterioration prevention, or social care for discharge-ready patients.**
- **The VW is not intended for patients who require investigations / interventions that can only be delivered in an inpatient setting.**
- **Alternative inpatient arrangements will need to be made for any person that does not have a safe home environment to receive the care they need or who does not wish to be cared for at home.**

Admission Avoidance



Phase of illness

Unstable - Patients identified by hospice MDT as clinically unstable and requiring daily assessment, would otherwise be admitted to hospice IPU or acute hospital bed.



Dying - Patient is imminently dying and care needs are escalating would otherwise be admitted to hospice IPU or acute hospital bed.

Early Supported Discharge



Dying or unstable - Patient is currently an inpatient, on hospice caseload and wishes to be at home or return to their care home but their current level of care needs means this unachievable without access to a specialist PEoLC VW acute level service.

St Peter and St James Hospice Virtual Ward is operating across Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, Uckfield and surrounding rural areas.

The pilot is taking a phased approach and will be testing this new virtual capacity over 2026/27, commencing with x 4 VW beds, open from 13th July 2026.

The service is operational 7 days a week 8am to 8pm and is delivered alongside the existing Virtual Wards services and integrated with community services. There are no changes to existing service availability as a result of this pilot.

Hospice PEoLC VW referrals can be made via the hospice daily triage, which can be contacted on: sxicb-esx.stpjclinical@nhs.net or 01444 470 819. Between the hours of 08.30 – 16.30