

Ashgate Hospice's Palliative Care Virtual Ward



What is it?

The purpose of a Virtual Ward is to provide safe care in the patient's own home (including care homes) for palliative patients. The aim is to avoid admission into acute hospitals where appropriate or support faster discharges back home. This will be facilitated using face-to-face visits and the use of digital technology.

Who is eligible?

- Anyone who is over the age of 18 who is registered with a North Derbyshire GP and in their catchment area.
- Any palliative patients with any life-limiting disease, with new, uncontrolled symptoms, or a change in circumstances requiring an increased level of support and monitoring in their own homes to prevent admission.

How does this work?

- Patients will be reviewed daily by the Ashgate Hospice MDT – this may be face-to-face, via phone or using a tablet or similar device.
- Decisions will be made to manage clinical conditions at home. Once symptoms or the situation has become more stable again, the patient will be discharged from the Virtual Ward back to other mainstream services.

**Please call the Virtual Ward team on 01246 565 030.
They can be contacted 24 hours a day.**

Referrals accepted Monday to Friday 9am–5pm via email: ashgatehospice.referrals@nhs.net