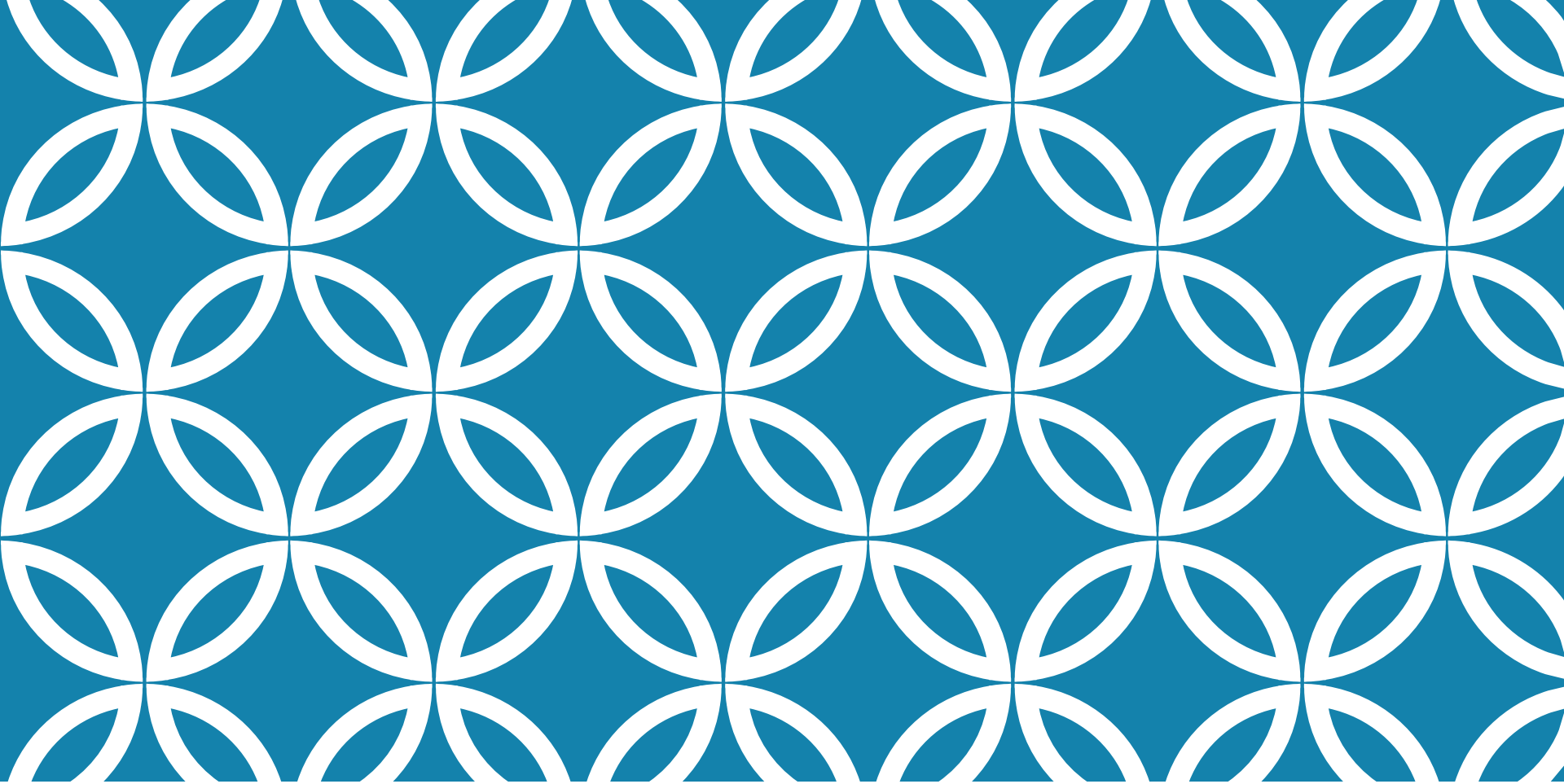
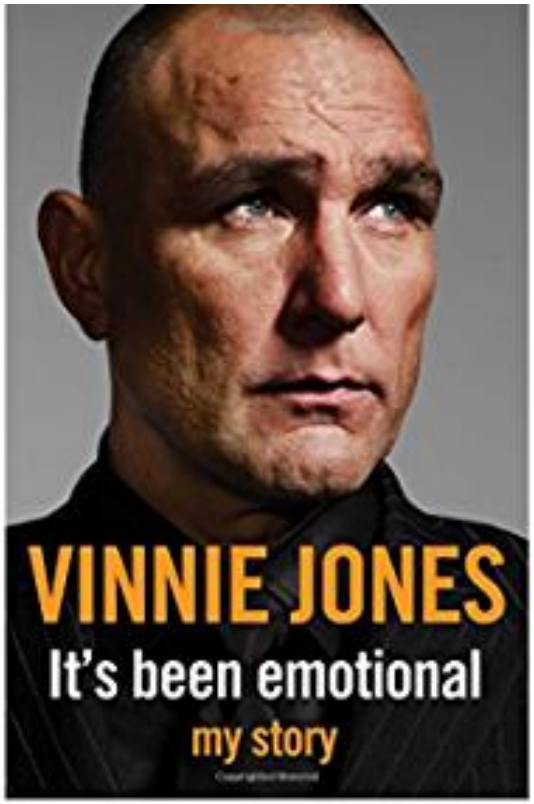


REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID PANDEMIC ON PALLIATIVE CARE

Dr Sinead Clarke
Medical Lead Cheshire End of Life Partnership
Sinead.clarke@nhs.net

IT'S BEEN EMOTIONAL



COVID FIRST WAVE – IT'S ALL ABOUT CARE HOMES

shutterstock.com · 400537657

Confidence to Care

COVID FIRST WAVE – IT'S ALL ABOUT CARE HOMES

Care Homes hit very badly

GPs struggling to even be sure residents had covid – **lack of testing**

Remote working – when to visit. Can't be sure we aren't bringing covid into home

Trying to **Care Plan** with limited information

Pressure to work out **who should be admitted** without knowing enough about the course of the disease

Confidence to Care

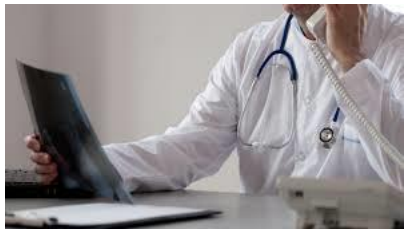
‘REMOTE’ WORKING

When to visit?

How to Care Plan?

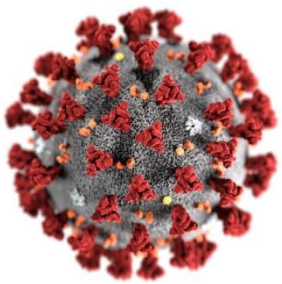
How to **break bad news?**

Time to care plan/communicate properly



Confidence to Care

SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT



COVID – new disease.

Shortness of Breath/O2 monitoring

Speed of onset

Uncertainty over course of illness

Anticipatory prescribing v. running out of meds

Confidence to Care

VISITORS (OR LACK THEREOF)

"I so look forward to my family visiting me. Making them feel guilty for putting me in here is my only pleasure in life."

CARERS

Confidence to Care

TAKING LEARNING FORWARD

Importance communication including electronic communication

Importance of care planning

EOLC is everyones buisness

Importance proper bereavement services

Value of our paid and un-paid carers

Coroners changes improvement

SIMPLE THINGS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Confidence to Care

COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION

Electronic Palliative Care Coordination - **EPaCCS**

iPADS **(other tablet brands are**

available)

MDT working –We came together! Hurray for whatsapp, frequent quick teams meetings, picking up the phone to each other.

Training to help with care planning on the phone/video.

Confidence to Care

FLEXIBILITY

E.g. Hospice teams coming out to help patients at home

Volunteers vaccine programmes/out of retirement

Mutual Aid between hospitals/hospices and other services

Looking at what our population needed rather than being bound by organisation.

TRAINING / SUPPORT

Examples:

Online training

Communication Skills/remote conversations

Symptom management

Care Planning

Training for carers

Hands on (e.g. EOLP work)

Verification Death Training

Wellbeing support for staff

eolp
Confidence to Care

CHANGE TO CORONERS RULES

Coronavirus Act 2020

Any doctor can complete MCCD if has full access to med records and confident cause of death and was a natural death

Must had been seen in previous 28 days by a doctor, video consult acceptable (phone not)

MCCD can be emailed to coroner

Crem form 5 suspended

Expired 25th March 2022 but all changes kept apart from:

The provision allowing any medical practitioner to complete the MCCD removed and informants have to register deaths in person not remotely.

GRIEF AND THE NEED FOR BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

HAVE WE EVEN STARTED TO PROCESS THE LAST 2 YEARS YET?

THANK YOU

Sinead.clarke@nhs.net

@_EOLP

www.eolp.co.uk

www.cheshire-epaige.nhs.uk

ONE CHANCE TO GET IT RIGHT

Improving people's experience of care in the last few days and hours of life.

Published June 2014 by the
Leadership Alliance for the Care of Dying People

Publications Gateway Reference 01509

RESOURCES

Local, Regional and National information and resources on end of life care

Cheshire End of Life Partnership : www.eolp.co.uk

Cheshire Epaige : www.cheshire-epaige.nhs.uk

Symptom Management

Guide to symptom control in the community RCGP/Association for Palliative Medicine – RCGP Covid-19 Resource Hub

NICE guideline NG163 – Covid-19 Rapid Guideline: Managing Symptoms (including at end of life) in the community, updated 13 October 2020

Coronavirus: Managing Delerium in confirmed and suspected cases : British Geriatrics Society and Royal College of Psychiatrists 25 March 2020

Dept Health and Social Care 23rd April 2020 ref 001559 'Running a Medicines Re-Use scheme in a Care Home or Hospice Setting' Standard Operating Procedure

Care Planning

Lots of resources on Cheshire Epaige including how to have conversations by video/on phone, how to talk to chidren about COVID-19,

EPaCCS

National and regional information on EPaCCS on Cheshire Epaige

National Day of
Reflection
23 March
Take a minute to reflect
and a moment to connect