

**COMMUNITY
WELLNESS SERVICE
CARE HOME INFORMATION**

DDHF
DURHAM DALES HEALTH FEDERATION

BACKGROUND

The Durham Dales Health Federation (DDHF) is a collaborative organisation comprising of the twelve GP practices located in the Durham Dales area of County Durham. The practices are working together to provide high quality primary healthcare services to patients in the Dales area.

To support our GPs in improving care for older people and those with complex needs, Durham Dales Health Federation employs a diverse team of healthcare specialists known as the Community Wellness Team (CWT).



AIM OF THE SERVICE

The CWT will visit patients who have been identified as being at risk of hospital admission in order to provide a health assessment, medication review and to develop a care plan, which includes their preferred place of care.

This proactive approach aims to assist patients in remaining healthy in their own homes, as well as, help patients avoid hospital admissions and, if possible, coordinate health and social care to make sure their care is joined up. The team can help signpost patients towards appropriate services and sources of funding.

In addition, the service aims to support early discharge from hospital and provide a point of contact should health/care needs change.



DDHF COMMUNITY WELLNESS TEAM

The DDHF Community Wellness Team is a nurse-led multidisciplinary team which is able to provide patients with clinical care during acute and chronic illness in their care home. The Nurse Practitioners work closely with GPs, nurses and carers within care homes. It is highly likely when care home staff request a GP to visit, it will be a highly skilled Nurse Practitioner who will meet the patients' clinical needs on behalf of their GP.

The experienced Nurse Practitioners have a special interest in the care of the elderly, and provide a bespoke service to your residents.

With experience in respiratory, cardiac, and other chronic conditions including dementia and also palliative care, the team provides a personal service, seven days a week. This service covers care planning aimed at keeping patients safe and well in a place of their choice. The Community Wellness Team is on hand for acute visits when medical attention is required and use their intimate knowledge of patients in order to support their GP.

The Nurse Practitioners inform other medical professionals involved in delivering patient care so that they can act accordingly and consider specific needs and concerns. Support can also be offered in relation to making decisions about medical conditions ahead of time; these conditions may require hospital admission, as well as emergency health plans and end of life considerations.

In the case of residents who lack the mental capacity to make decisions for themselves, the team provides a platform for best interest discussions and decision making. This process is often used for discussing Advanced Care Plans; such as the Emergency Health Care Plan (EHCP) and will involve a patient's family and loved ones.

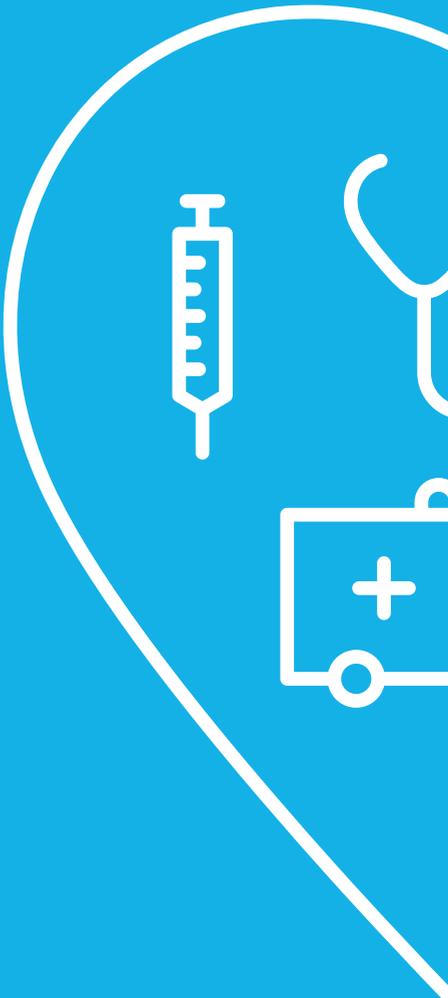
If you require more information on EHCPs, please see our separate leaflet, 'Emergency Health Care Plans for Care Home Residents'.

The Community Wellness Team can also support patients by providing:

- Annual flu, pneumococcal and shingles vaccinations
- Investigatory health care services, such as Phlebotomy and ECG
- Annual dementia reviews

The aim at all times is to provide the best and most appropriate clinical care in conjunction with GPs, so that patients and their families will be comfortable and free from any pain or distress whilst they are receiving 24 hour care.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO
PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY,
COST EFFECTIVE PRIMARY
HEALTHCARE SERVICES**



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