

5 February 2021

Temporary change regarding inpatient capacity at Martlets Hospice

Dear colleagues,

Martlets has continued to provide hospice care across Brighton and Hove and surrounding areas throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, Martlets has been supporting palliative and end of life care needs for the wider Sussex community, as part of a mutual aid pathway set up by hospices in the county. A proportion of this specialised care is provided on its inpatient unit in Hove, which is made up of 10 single rooms and two 4-bedded shared bays.

To ensure the safe and effective provision of care, and to comply with best practice guidance regarding infection control from Public Health England (PHE), our NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), we will temporarily be operating at a capacity of 12 inpatient beds. This will see our current shared bays operate at single occupancy.

This decision mitigates risk to patients and staff whilst also ensuring that we continue to support our community, as we navigate our way through the pandemic. We remain committed to helping to address some of the challenges that our partner providers have been facing during this exceptionally busy time.

As before, our inpatient service will apply to patients with complex palliative and/or end of life care needs for whom care at home or in hospital is not clinically appropriate.

In addition, the following services remain on offer to help provide care and support to our patients:

- **Martlets Community Specialist team** – we continue to risk assess face-to-face visits by our Clinical Nurse Specialists and Doctors. We will continue to provide Specialist Palliative Care using telephone and video consultations but will offer face-to-face visits when there is an urgent or complex need.
- **Martlets Hospice at Home team** provides a visiting service 7 days/week from 8am-9pm.
- Our **Martlets 24/7 Hub Telephone Advice Line** (01273 964164) is open for patients, carers, and health care professionals.
- **Martlets Consultant team** is on hand to provide 24/7 Specialist Palliative Care advice via telephone, available via our 24/7 Hub Telephone Advice Line.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your cooperation and support, as we work to provide vital frontline care to patients across Brighton and Hove and surrounding areas throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any further queries, please contact Graham Turner, Ward Manager (graham.turner@martlets.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Dr Simone Ali
Consultant in Palliative Medicine & Medical Director



Karen Taylor
Director of Clinical Services