

## **Anticipatory Care Planning**

We know that circumstances surrounding the health of elderly people can change quickly, especially when they have chronic health conditions, and that sometimes medical decisions need to be made at short notice.

Should this situation arise, it is helpful for the nursing staff and GPs to have a broad understanding of patients' wishes when it comes to treatment and level of care so that these can be taken into account. In some cases, the patient themselves is able to make their own decisions. In others, where they are unable, their next of kin, power of attorney or welfare guardian is able to comment on their behalf.

It may be that conversations have already taken place around this. If not, it may be helpful to consider what you or your loved one may wish in certain circumstances as a guide. There is also some helpful information from Respect, which you can look at on the website.

We have compiled a short questionnaire and would be grateful if you could fill this in and email it back to us at the practice. Our email address is secure, and confidentiality is assured.

The final question is about consent for uploading of this information to a shared database which our colleagues in the hospitals, ambulance service and GP out of hours service are able to access. It is extremely helpful for them to be able to access this as they are not able to see the GP records.

We thank you for your co-operation at a difficult time.

The GPs at Tollcross Medical Centre