

Marie Curie Cancer Care Research Programme - Project Grant

Project details

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Phase 2 randomised trial of early versus delayed future care planning for patients with advanced heart disease

Duration of project: 18 months

Start date: 01/05/2013 (TBC)

Budget: £149k (TBC)

Abstract

Patients with cancer have well developed palliative care services while patients with advanced heart disease, with a prognosis worse than many cancers, do not. It is widely recognised that this needs to change. However, there are no clinical trials that have assessed the effectiveness of better supportive care for people with advanced heart disease who are approaching the end of life. There are complex challenges in designing and running such a trial. This feasibility study aims to assess those challenges by asking patients, doctors and nurses about their views on how such a trial could be designed and run. A pilot study will also randomise a small number of people with advanced heart failure to a complex intervention which will include a detailed care-plan outlining support available and what should be done in the event of a sudden deterioration. The findings of this pilot study will help in the design of a much larger clinical trial.