

CAF/17/06 - Use of unscheduled care in the last year of life by people who die from cancer

People who are dying from cancer often experience unpleasant and distressing symptoms. Out-of-hours they access 'Unscheduled Care' via the General Practice Out-Of-Hours (GP-OOH) service and Accident and Emergency (A&E). Unscheduled care by unfamiliar clinicians can lead to negative outcomes, including disjointed and sometimes contradictory care, patients being over-or under-treated, and unwanted admissions to hospital.

This study will examine unscheduled care use by every adult who died from cancer in NHS Tayside from 2012-2015. We have data about these people's cancer, what medications they are prescribed and on every clinical encounter they have had with GP-OOH or A&E in their last year of life. By linking these datasets together we can see how often and why people dying from cancer use unscheduled care. Once we understand this we can make recommendations to reduce people's need to use unscheduled care in their last year of life and improve overall service provision.