

Resuscitation

North London Hospice is able to provide basic life support including Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Patients who require CPR will be given basic life support followed by transfer to a local hospital by emergency ambulance. The Hospice does not offer advanced CPR.

There is evidence to suggest that for most terminally ill patients, especially those with cancer, the probable harm of attempting CPR outweighs the possible benefits. Most patients cared for by North London Hospice will not benefit from attempting CPR.

There are exceptions to this and if medical staff feel that it may be appropriate to attempt CPR because there may be some chance of success, they will discuss this with the patient and if the patient wishes, those close to them.

If the medical staff do not feel it is appropriate to attempt CPR they will offer to discuss this with the patient and those close to them. They will explore in how much detail the patient wishes to discuss this. We are aware this is a sensitive topic so we will have discussions on an individual basis but mindful not to cause harm to the patient or those close to them by insisting on full discussions. However, if you or those close to you would like to raise the issue, one of our senior doctors would be happy to discuss it further.

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