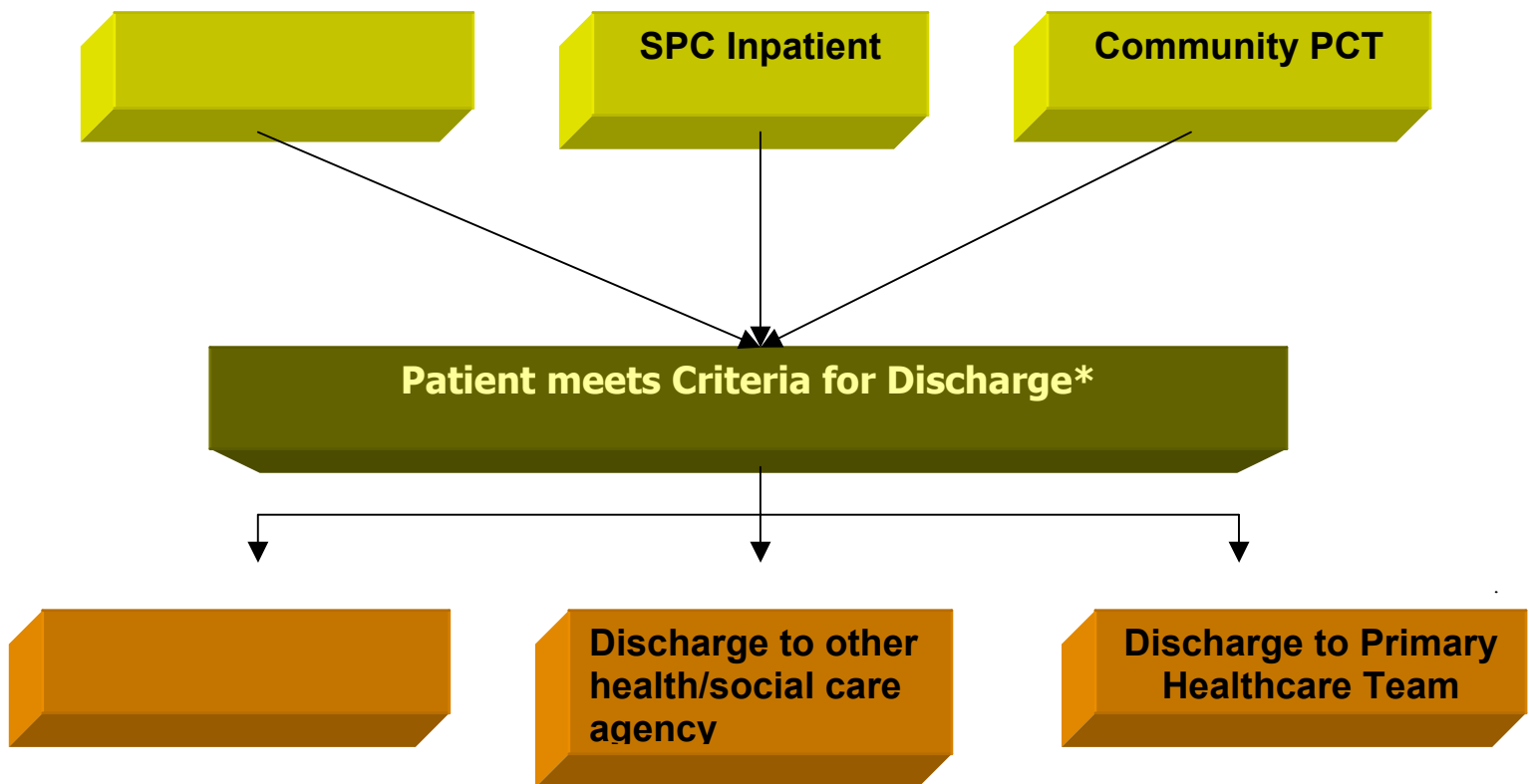


## Discharge Pathway from Specialist Palliative Care

### South London Palliative And Supportive Care Network



#### Criteria for Discharge\*

Specialist Palliative Care (SPC) needs<sup>®</sup> can change over time. Usually, the progressive nature of the disease necessitates increasing SPC input, however, in some patients needs may decrease such that they no longer require SPC. In the latter group it is appropriate to consider discharge for continuing care from other health care providers. It is important to note that patients can be re-referred should they develop SPC needs once more. The patient, the referring team and all health care professionals will be notified of the decision to discharge. Such decisions will be made following multiprofessional discussion.

#### Discharge Criteria

A patient may be discharged from SPC if there is:

1. A change in disease status:
  - Investigations reveal less advanced disease than previously thought
  - Following response to treatment
  - Disease evident as only slowly progressive

Such that the patient no longer has any specialist palliative care needs.
2. Symptomatic improvement following SPC intervention, such that patient no longer has SPC needs.
3. Following a SPC assessment, it is agreed that they do not have SPC needs and ongoing needs are more appropriately met by other health care agencies.
4. Patient's express request for discharge from SPC, following informed discussion.
5. Reluctance of patient to allow effective SPC input e.g. restricting access for assessment. The SPC team are, however, always available to offer support to involved Health Care Professionals.

<sup>®</sup>Specialist palliative care needs includes potential/ existing difficulties with the following:

- Pain and symptom management
- Meeting the psychological, social and spiritual needs of the patient & their family and/or significant others
- Terminal care/ dying