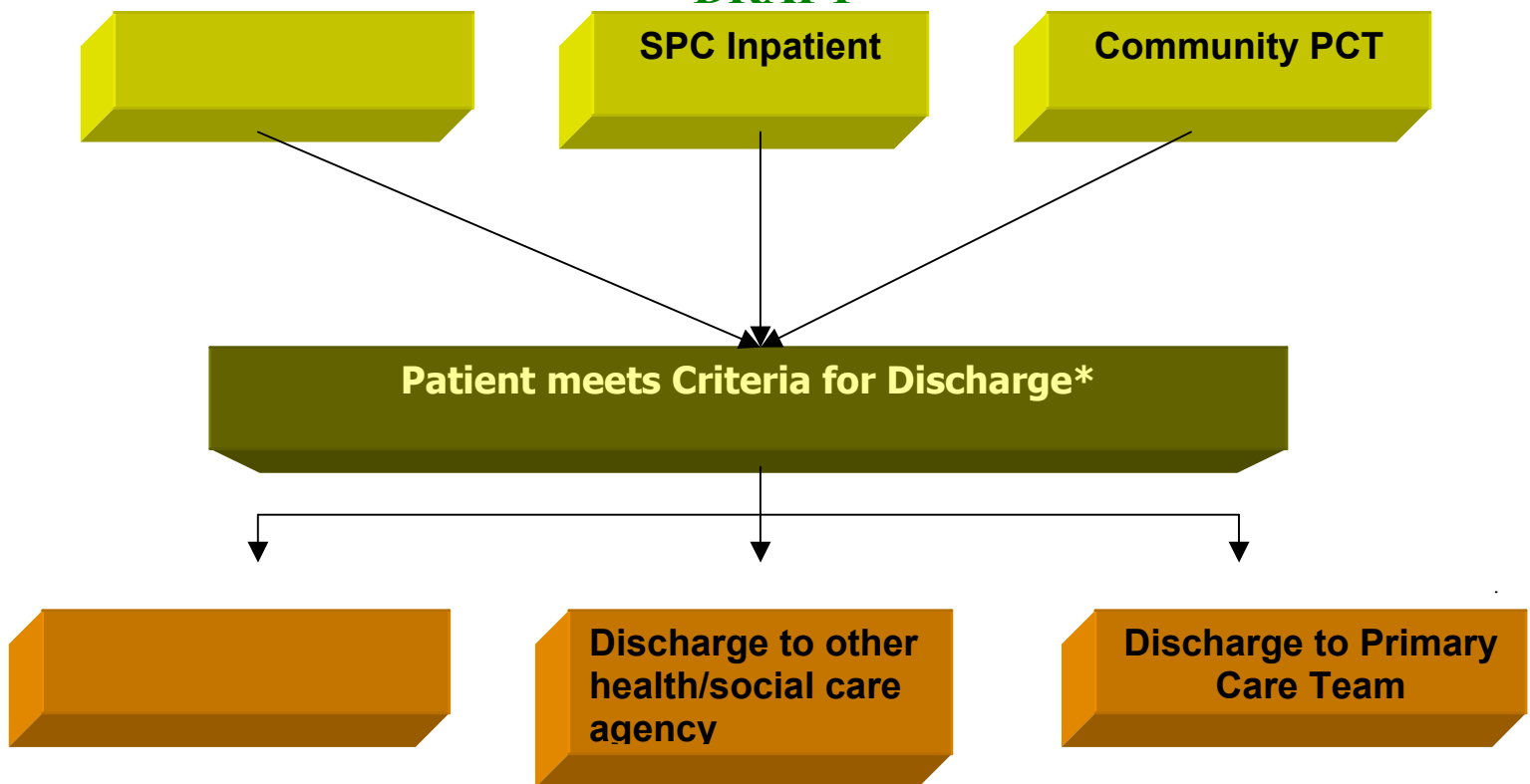


# Discharge Pathway from Specialist Palliative Care

## South London Palliative And Supportive Care Network

**DRAFT**



### Criteria for Discharge\*

Specialist Palliative Care (SPC) needs 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 according to the following criteria, for continuing care from other health care providers. This may be subject to re-referral at a later date according to clinical need. The referring team and all involved health care professionals will be notified of the patient's discharge

1. Change in patient's 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 SPC assessment it is agreed that clinical needs are more appropriately met by other health care agencies e.g. Care of Elderly, General Medical, Psychological Medicine, social care agency
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.

Specialist palliative care needs includes potential/ existing difficulties with the following:

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