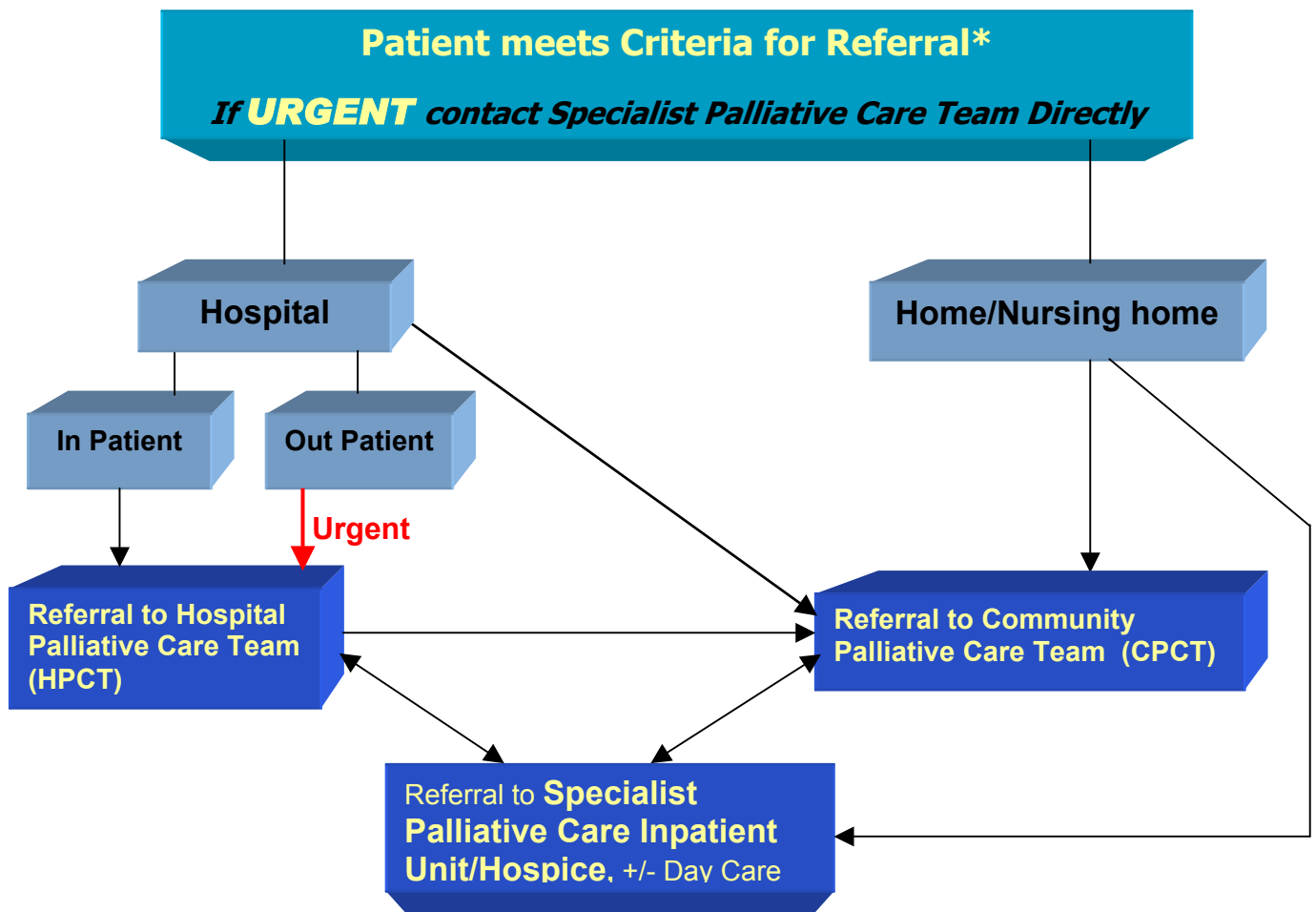


Referral Pathway for Specialist Palliative Care

South London Palliative And Supportive Care Network



Routine referrals will be contacted within 2 working days to arrange an assessment. For urgent referrals, direct contact with palliative care team is needed to discuss each situation individually.

Criteria for Referral*

Most patients will have an advanced, progressive disease, where the focus of care will have changed from curative to palliative and the prognosis is limited. Some patients, who have complex specialist needs, can be referred at an earlier stage, from diagnosis onwards. Patients may be discharged if their condition stabilises.

- A demonstrable need for specialist palliative care services must be established. Appropriate reasons for referral may include 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
- Where possible, the patient, and if not, the carer, should be informed and in agreement with the referral
- Any Health Care Professional can refer to the Specialist Palliative Care Team, but acceptance must be with the agreement of the GP/inpatient Consultant

Criteria for Urgent Referral: needing advice/assessment within 1-2 working days.

- Difficult psychological/physical symptoms causing distress and not responding to current management
- Rapidly deteriorating condition