

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NURSES STATEMENT ON THE LIVERPOOL CARE PATHWAY

The Association of Catholic Nurses as an organization has serious concerns about the way the Liverpool Care Pathway, designed and developed to produce an easier death through removal of nutrition, hydration and medication in the last hours of life in terminal palliative care, has been misapplied to other hospital and domiciliary care settings and medical conditions to accelerate the dying process in people presumed dying, some of whom, when withdrawn from it, have gone on to make a full recovery. When misapplied this pathway significantly increases the suffering experienced by the patient.

In welcoming the Dept of Health support for an Inquiry into Liverpool Care Pathway practices the Association has produced its own following statement :

'The nurse should remember at all times that they are the patient's advocate

The holistic care of the patient is paramount and each patient is entitled to individualised care

Nurses at all times should be accountable for their care and provide evidence based research and act accordingly in line with individualised care patient's symptoms which should be the focus of effective care.

Good communication is essential with the patient if possible and their relatives from the outset and should be regularly reviewed..

Nurses should also be able to ask questions about decisions taken on patient care.'

'The Association of Catholic Nurses are pleased that there is to be an enquiry now.

If you need any further information contact the Association of Catholic Nurses who will advise you'

Association of Catholic Nurses 27/10/2012