

# Parlez-Vous Prognostic Indicators? : How Health and Social Care Occupational Therapists in Fife are driving Integrated system wide Change in Palliative Care Services

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## Abbreviated abstract:

Historically in Fife there were discrepancies in referral criteria for palliative care patients leading to confused communication between services which impacted timely service provision, a vital element to quality care.

Occupational Therapists are a unique profession straddling both health and social care, making it an ideal test site for the implementation of palliative prognostic indicator tools to improve patient care.

The test outcomes included improved service delivery for patients due to better communication, understanding and prioritisation of referrals.

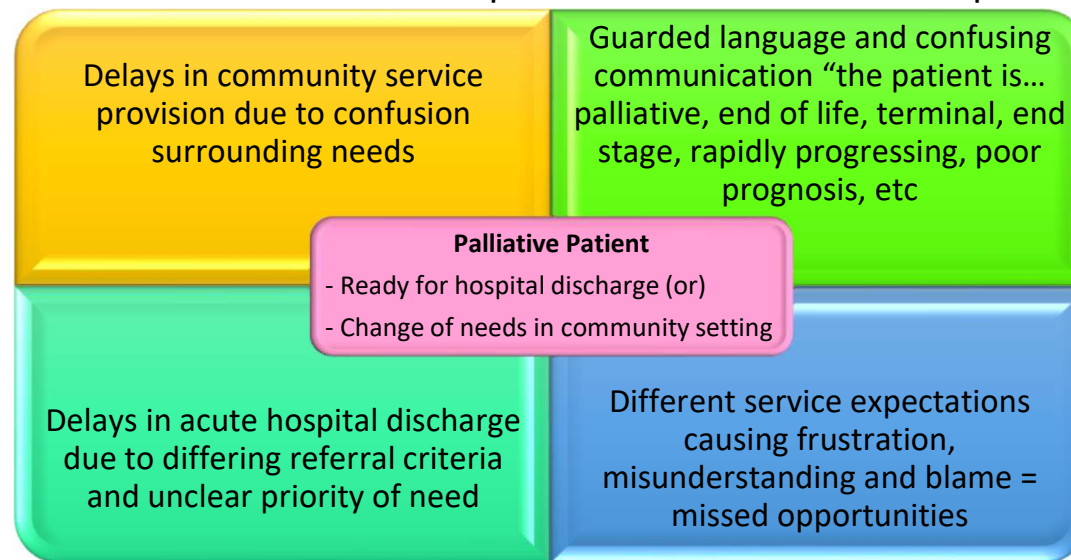
## Related publications:

- 1 - Scottish Government: Living & Dying Well: Building in Progress <https://www.gov.scot/publications/living-dying-well-building-progress> (2011)
- 2 - Scottish Government: Transforming Care After Treatment <https://www.gov.scot/topics/health/services/cancer/TCAT> (2016)

# Previous work, challenge, and approach

Scottish Governments Living and Dying well action plan (1) highlights quality care delivery through integrated working, good communication and seamless services from hospital to home.

In Fife, the NHS Fife Specialist Palliative Care Team were awarded further funding from the Macmillan Transforming Care After Treatment (TCAT) (2) programme and alongside previous work by Occupational Therapy staff in both sectors it was recognised there were communication issues and discrepancies in referral criteria impacting on timely, quality service provision.

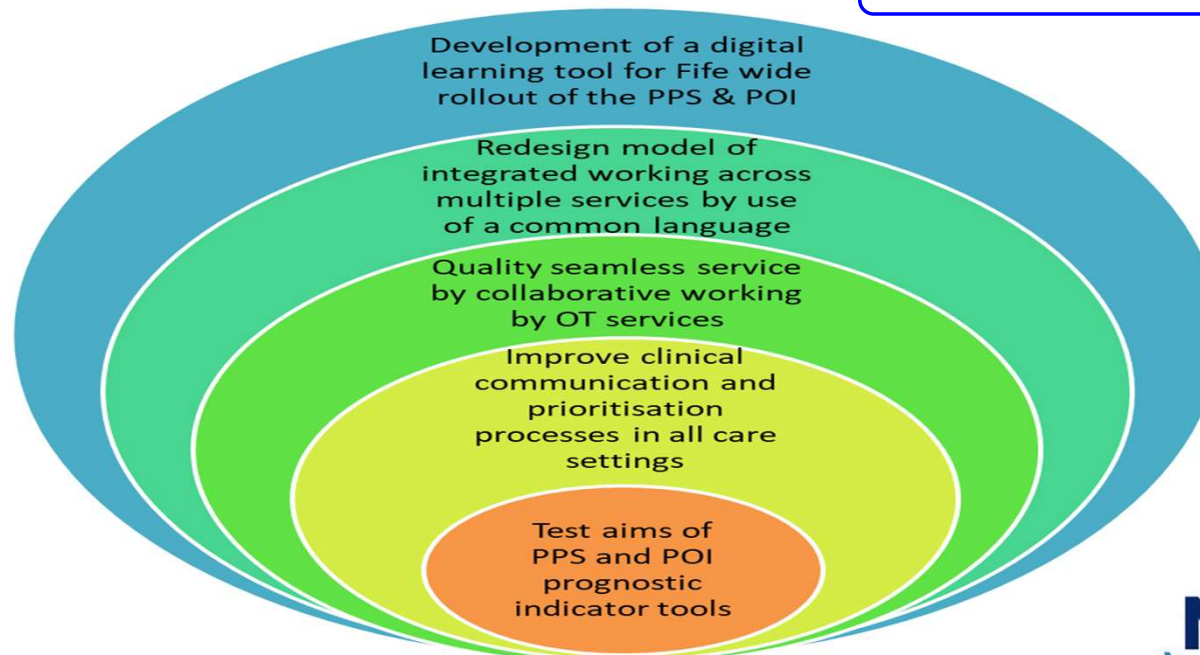


# Techniques and Methods

- 2 validated prognostic indicator tools identified = Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) and Phases of Illness (POI) - tests of change implemented across sectors
- Collaborative implantation to Fife Specialist Palliative Care Services, Social Work OT teams, wider health & social care services and third sector
- Development of an educational resource (sustainable practice)

 YouTube

<https://youtu.be/GJexfvI9ZUU>



# Results and Conclusions



Qualitative evaluation shows 3 main service enhancements of using the PPS and POI;

- 1) communication and understanding
- 2) effective referral prioritising and processing
- 3) workload planning.

Additional benefits include; improved confidence of non palliative care trained clinicians; accessing the right service for patient at the right time; wider services seeking to roll out PPS/POI.

In Conclusion.....

**The embedding of a common professional language in Fife has shown improvements in service delivery for palliative patients across multiple professions and services in the acute, social care and voluntary sectors, demonstrating the value of true integrated working.**