



St Joseph's  
Hospice

### Out of Hours Admissions

In certain circumstances, we will consider admitting a patient to the inpatient unit outside of normal working hours. Whether an admission is possible depends on bed availability and staffing levels as well as patient need. We would make every effort to admit patients known to St Joseph's in the event of a crisis; e.g. a malignancy leading to a large haemorrhage, or sudden onset of severe uncontrolled symptoms (eg breathlessness.)

#### The following criteria apply for emergency admissions:

- Ideally, the patient should already be known to St Josephs. This is to avoid under-treatment of patients who might benefit from hospital intervention.
- The patient wants to be admitted to the hospice.
- The patient has been assessed that night by the on call GP
- The patient is thought to be in the dying phase of their illness
- Distress is at a level that cannot be managed at home.

Referrals for admissions out of hours can be made by our 24/7 helpline number (0300 3030 400), and will be directed to the consultant on call for St Joseph's Hospice.

**If there are concerns from a health professional about a patient falling outside of these criteria, who may benefit from an admission, the St Joseph's consultant on call would be happy to discuss further.**