This folder was developed as part of the Hospice Friendly Hospitals Programme - an Irish Hospice Foundation initiative in partnership with the HSE
Dear Colleague

This End-of-Life Care Resource Folder has been developed by the Hospital Committee on Dying, Death and Bereavement in collaboration with the Hospice Friendly Hospitals Programme. Its aim is to assist staff in their interaction with patients at end of life and their families. It is hoped that it contains some practical information to support your work in end-of-life care and will be a central resource on your ward/unit.

End-of-life care is a core part of our work. Each year, approximately XXX patients die in this hospital. Delivering end-of-life care can be challenging and daunting for staff. This hospital is striving to ensure that staff feel supported in this important aspect of their work. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the contents of this folder. If you feel that there is information missing, please bring this to the attention of your Ward Manager or the Chair of the Dying, Death and Bereavement Committee.

Best wishes,

Senior Lead for End-of-Life Care
On behalf of the Standing Committee for End-of-Life Care
Introduction
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As health care professionals we only have one chance to get end-of-life care right for each patient.
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Each year almost 30,000 people die in Ireland. While surveys indicate that two-thirds of people would like to die at home the reality is that three-quarters currently die outside the home. Almost half (48%) of deaths occur in acute hospitals (National Audit of End-of-Life Care in Hospitals 2008/9). End-of-life care is therefore a core activity of hospitals and in some way the business of every member of hospital staff.

The Hospice Friendly Hospitals (HFH) Programme is a 5-year national programme, initiated by the Irish Hospice Foundation in May 2007 in partnership with the Health Services Executive (HSE) and supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Dormant Accounts Fund and The Health Services National Partnership Forum. The mission of the Hospice Friendly Hospitals Programme is to put hospice principles into hospital practices. It promotes a quality service for all patients at the end of life, whether their death is expected or unexpected, and acknowledges the role of clinical, administrative and support staff in improving patients' and families' experiences.

The key aims of the HFH Programme are:

- To develop Quality Standards for End-of-Life Care in Hospitals (published May 2010)
- To develop the capacity of hospitals to meet these standards
- To improve the overall culture of care and organisation in hospitals regarding all aspects of dying, death and bereavement.
About the End-of-Life Care Resource Folder

This End-of-Life Care Resource Folder has been provided to hospitals as part of the Hospice Friendly Hospitals Programme to support staff to provide high quality end-of-life care and effectively manage all issues relating to dying, death and bereavement within the hospital setting.

The folder provides a wide variety of information and resources for families and staff and a number of educational and training tools which may be used to provide in-service and induction for staff at ward, area and hospital level.

If you would like additional copies of the booklets contained in this folder, they can be downloaded from www.hospicefriendlyhospitals.net

Maintenance & Updating of the Folder

The End-of-Life Care Resource Folder will need to be maintained and updated by a designated member of staff within the ward or area. It is the responsibility of the hospital to ensure that all information housed within the folder is up-to-date and in accordance with best practice. Please visit the HFH website regularly to check for updates www.hospicefriendlyhospitals.net

It is important for each hospital to provide local information and contact numbers where relevant, given that the information provided by HFH is from a more global perspective.