



Bert and Gladys' story

AGE: **90**

DIAGNOSIS: **Terminal lung cancer**

ISSUES: **Practical support and information**

“ Bert’s wife Gladys had terminal lung cancer and was occupying a hospital palliative care bed. Bert was quite mobile, still driving but lived some 10 miles away from the hospital. He was undergoing tests himself for prostate cancer and had been informed he’d have to find a nursing home for his wife.

Bert was anxious about having to choose a nursing home for his wife for her future care. Gladys had previously had respite in two nursing homes in her area and neither Bert nor Gladys wanted her to move into either of them more permanently. I discussed other options for nursing homes in their area and agreed a date and time to visit a preferred option. I was able to supply Bert with the Care Quality Commission report for the nursing home and gave a leaflet entitled: “Top ten tips when choosing a Care Home”

The hospital was eager to discharge Gladys and wanted her to move to any home with a vacancy. I telephoned the Discharge Liaison Team and discussed the fact that Bert and Gladys had a choice in where Gladys went to live. The hospital then agreed to delay discharge until after the visit. Bert was satisfied with the nursing home and a discharge date was agreed. Bert felt that he had done his best for his wife and had found a nursing home suitable for both of them in their home town. He expressed his appreciation for the advocacy support and information prior to and during the visit.

I was able to make a difference by listening to Bert and Gladys, giving Bert information about the nursing home and supporting him during the visit. Bert was really appreciative of the support he received. ”

Kath supported Bert for 1 month, with 3 visits and 12 telephone calls

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