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Helping to manage symptoms at home

When people get closer to passing, they can have symptoms like pain or short wind. Medicine may be needed to help them feel comfortable.

People at this stage of their life cannot take medicine by mouth. The medicine can be given under the skin. This is called 'subcutaneous' medicine.

If your family wishes, your nurse will show you how to give the right medicine under the skin at the right time. This can help your family keep your loved one at home if that is what you all want. You can give medicine right away – when it is needed. You do not need to wait for the clinic/nurse to visit or travel to a clinic.

The nurse will teach you all using the caring@home pack. It has been made for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mob.

If you think you are not able to give the medicine under the skin your loved one will still be well looked after by the clinic.



What do other families say?



"Looking after my husband was, it was a cultural thing of course. We always look after our elders and the sickly and try to keep them at home as long as possible.

So when he was diagnosed and told that he would not get better, it was just a no brainer he was coming back home to be surrounded by family.

All of the family got to see him all the time and he loved it and they did too. It wasn't like going into a hospital or you know a palliative care unit, it was all in the home. I mean we had BBQs.

The nurse was lovely - she explained everything to me about how to give the right medicine under the skin. We could see that after we gave medicine he was peaceful and that is what we wanted. There wasn't a worry about him being anxious or restless or you know if he was in pain. The nurses were always available to answer questions.

He passed at home."



Contact details

Clinic can enter their own details

caring@home acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.