



Association for Palliative Medicine

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A Day in the Life of a Palliative Medicine Consultant

I work 4 days a week as have 2 young children, so the day starts with playing with them and then rushing out of the house to work. I'm in by 8.30 and then catch up on emails and see how the Palliative Care Unit that I work on has changed overnight.

Two mornings a week I do a ward round on the palliative care unit when we encourage relatives to attend (if the patient wishes) so everyone feels involved. One morning a week we have a pan-Northumberland MDT when we video-link to the more remote areas to discuss complex patients across Northumberland.

At the MDT the Macmillan nurses frequently ask me to see patients either at home or in my clinic. I get phone calls throughout the day asking for urgent advice or home visits.

One day a week I work as an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer in Palliative Medicine for the medicine undergraduates from Newcastle University, so time is spent preparing, planning & delivering teaching. I also do lots of teaching for the doctors at the hospital and GPs in the community.

In my leisure time(!) I work as the Honorary Secretary for the Association for Palliative Medicine coordinating responses to national consultations from NICE, DoH, RCP etc. My job is very varied and that is what I like.

No two days are the same and you never quite know how a day will pan out.