**Care Decisions for the last days of life**

Care Decisions for the last days of life EDUCATION SESSION – case study - 2015

**Case study outline to accompany the longer education session on the documentation.**

*Consider the following facts alongside the Care decisions for the last days of life document and discuss where some of this information would be added to the document.*

You are reviewing patients at the start of the day.

You see an 87 year old lady with end stage heart failure who has suffered a stroke resulting in a dense hemiplegia 7 days ago. She has moved ward and team three times in the last 6 days. She arrived on your ward 48 hours ago.

She has remained unresponsive. She has signs of a developing chest infection for which she was started on IV antibiotics 48 hours ago. Her other illnesses are: diabetes controlled with oral medication, arthritis, osteoporosis, a right hip replacement and mild hypothyroidism .

She has significant peripheral oedema, has a respiratory rate of 30, BP 85/40, pulse 96 regular and a temperature varying between of 38.5 and 37.5 on the last 4 readings .

Her daughter is visiting from London, and is sitting by her side. You know that her son lives in New York and has phone the ward.

Her medication chart contains regular prescriptions for:

Gliclazide, paracetamol, alendronic acid, furosemide, digoxin, bisprolol, aspirin. IV co-amoxiclav, a statin, vitamin complex . She is on 12 hourly litre bags of normal saline . There are forms for U and E and FBC to be taken today.

This morning her IV line has tissued again, two unsuccessful attempts have been made to resite it and there is a debate as to whether it should be replaced. She does not appear to have a DNACPR form .

The team make a decision that she is probably nearing the last few days of her life.