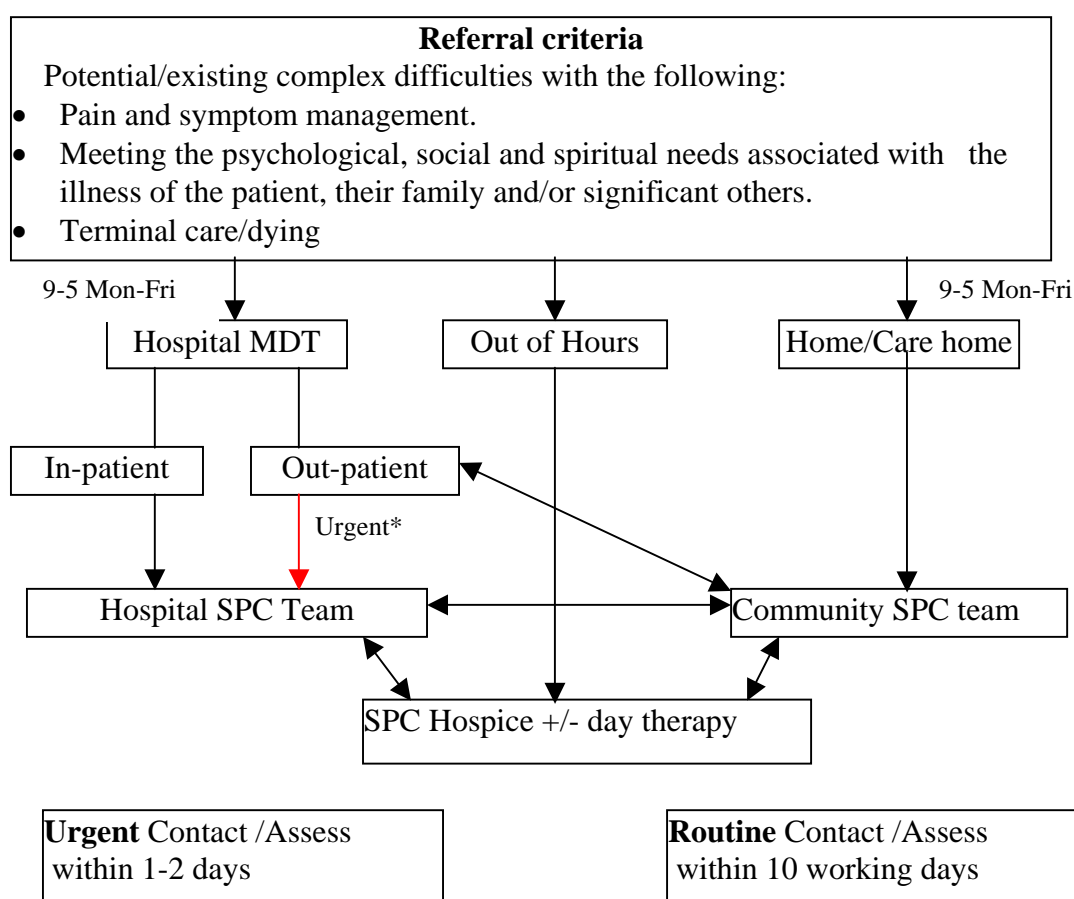


Referral Pathway for Adult Specialist Palliative Care (SPC)

Most patients referred to the SPC services will have an advanced, progressive disease, where the focus of care will have changed from curative to palliative and the prognosis is limited. Some patients, who have complex specialist needs, can be referred at an earlier stage, from diagnosis onwards. The patient (or if this is not possible, the carer) must be in agreement with the referral. The referral must be documented in the notes. Any healthcare professional can refer to the SPC service but acceptance must be with the agreement of the GP/inpatient consultant and key worker**. It is recommended that referral is considered at regular stages in the patient pathway, e.g. at time of diagnosis, commencement of definitive treatment, completion of primary treatment plan, disease reoccurrence or relapse, point of recognition of incurability, end of life, other times required by the patient.



*Urgent referral; if **immediate** advice required contact the SPC team directly for:

- Difficult psychological/physical symptoms causing distress not responding to current management.
- Rapidly deteriorating condition.

** The key worker is usually the Clinical Nurse Specialist or District Nurse

Signature:

Dr Simone Ali, SCN Palliative Care Group Chair