

1 How to tell if a patient has a ReSPECT Plan?

Old paper copies:

- Ask the person if they have a paper ReSPECT plan
- Check the 'Shared Care Record' End of Life page to see if a code has pulled through from primary care to identify that a patient has an 'old' paper version

New digital ReSPECT plans:

From April 2026 a new digital ReSPECT plan will be viewed and created on the shared care record. A purple 'R' will be present in the top right corner of the landing page to tell you that a digital ReSPECT plan has been created for the patient.

2 Consider the opportunities to review a ReSPECT plan

- When a patient's place of care changes
- When a patient's condition deteriorates
- When a patient asks questions related to their prognosis or their future care

3 If you are revising an 'old' paper ReSPECT plan held by a patient, from April 2026 please ensure that the revised plan is created digitally on the 'Shared Care Record' so that this can be shared by health care professionals across our health care system. Don't forget to print a copy of this for the patient to hold too and void the 'old' version.

4 The ReSPECT process can take a number of conversations and so in the event of unexpected emergency or deterioration, use the information provided to inform decision making. The absence of a Lead Clinician signature or second authorising signature e.g. GP or Consultant does not automatically invalidate a form as many members of the MDT can contribute to ReSPECT guidance.

5 In an emergency, if a patient has capacity, it is important to ensure that their written ReSPECT plan still reflects their wishes.

6 Remember that other associated Advance Care Planning documents may also exist such as a My Wishes document (patient held paper copy or digital copy on the patient portal), Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment and Lasting Power of Attorney.



ReSPECT Top Tips

ReSPECT Key Facts

ReSPECT (Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment) is guidance which can be used to inform decision making in an emergency. It includes recommendations about CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). The ReSPECT plan is a person held document.

From April 2026 any new or revised ReSPECT plans should be created digitally via the 'Shared Care Record' enabling health care professionals to view the plan easily at the time of need. Patients will be issued with a printed version of this digital plan so they will always have access to a paper copy of their plan. Black and White printed copies have been approved and are accepted across Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICS. 'Old' purple paper versions of ReSPECT are still valid if they are the newest version.

What to write on a ReSPECT plan

Patient Priorities:

Try to use the patient's own words to help reflect what matters most to them.

Clinical Recommendations:

Aim to write this guidance so it can help support the next care provider or health professional to make a decision in an emergency.

Useful Phrases

- Escalation to acute setting for all conditions is appropriate.
- For active management of acute events including consideration of oxygen, non-invasive ventilation and IV treatment including antibiotics.
- For all interventions available in the community setting including rapid response, hospital at home with consideration of escalation to secondary care if not improving.
- Consideration of IV antibiotics to be given in the usual care setting, this represents the ceiling of care and if the patient deteriorates despite this, the focus is then on comfort measures only.
- Not for transfer to the acute hospital even if condition deteriorates and/or life is at risk, including risk from bleed from head injury – Unless care and comfort cannot be managed in the current setting.
- xxxx wishes to be at home as much as possible and preferred place of death is home.

Less Useful Phrases:

- Admit for reversible causes.
- Ward based care (especially when present on a form in a community setting but still quite vague in hospital setting).
- For full active management.
- Not for hospital treatment unless necessary.
- There may be some benefit from hospital admission in some situations.

Further Resources

Further health care professional learning resources and easy read ReSPECT information can be found in the ICS academy PEOLC toolkit and TeamNet Advance Care Planning page:

- [Course: PEOLC Resources](#)
- [Advance Care Planning - ReSPECT My Wishes](#)