



**A**ssessment  
**M**anagement  
**B**est Practice  
**E**ngagement  
**R**ecovery Uncertain

Information for patients and their families

## **What is the AMBER Care Bundle?**

At the University Hospital of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust we aim to provide the highest standards of care for you and those people who are important to you. It is important that you are involved with decisions about your care as much as you would like to be.

The AMBER care bundle is used to support the care of patients who are very unwell, when doctors and nurses recognise recovery is uncertain in spite of active medical treatment.

The AMBER care bundle encourages regular review of a patients care, and ensures that patients, or with their permission, those important to them are involved in decisions about their care. This may be decisions about treatment, or discussions about what they would like to happen in the future.

## **What are the benefits of the AMBER care bundle to patients?**

The AMBER care bundle helps improve communication between patients and their families and the team providing their care. Patients are actively involved with discussions about their treatment. The team will ensure that patient's wishes and preferences are always taken into consideration.

## **What does being supported by the AMBER care bundle mean?**

The ward team, including doctors and nurses will discuss as a team whether a patient should be supported with the AMBER care bundle. They will agree the best treatment plan and whenever possible will discuss this with the patient, and if they wish with those important to them.

The AMBER care bundle makes sure that the ward team reviews a patient's individual treatment plan every day and that the team keep the patient and those important to them up to date with any changes.

**What happens if someone being supported by the AMBER care bundle gets better?**

If a patient gets better, they may wish to go home or to another place of care. The team will discuss this and advise on any help that may be needed after discharge from hospital. This is an opportunity to talk about the future and what a person would want if their health should worsen again. The ward team will support patients and those important to them with these discussions as much as is desired.

**What happens if someone doesn't respond to treatment and gets worse while they are being supported by the AMBER care bundle?**

The ward team will explain this and discuss any other possible treatments that may be appropriate. If there are sadly no more treatments to cure the patient, the team will talk about best supportive care. When it is believed that someone may be approaching the end of their life, the team will want to give the best care possible, taking into account every individual's priorities and preferences. They may ask about future care wishes and plans. With the patient's permission, the team can discuss plans with those people who are important to the patient as well.

**When patients go home are their GP & District Nurse informed that they have been supported by the AMBER bundle?**

Yes. The ward team will inform a patient's GP about their admission. With permission, the ward team will share information about conversations about an individual's priorities and preferences for the future. This is important as it will help to ensure all health professionals continue to meet a person's needs when they return home. GPs and nurses in the community can talk more about how to achieve priorities and preferences once a patient is at home.

**If a patient is re-admitted to hospital will they always be supported by the AMBER bundle?**

No, not necessarily. The decision as to whether a patient is supported by the AMBER care bundle will be made on each admission depending on

their condition at that time. Discussing this and any preferences for care will always remain important.

The AMBER care bundle supports ward teams with earlier decision making and better communication when it is uncertain whether a patient may recover.

The AMBER care bundle aims to ensure that patients and their families are involved as much as they would like to be in decisions about their care.

It aims to deliver the high standards of care that you should expect from University Hospitals of Derby and Burton.

If you have any further questions about the AMBER care bundle, or would like more information, you can discuss this with your nominated ward nurse.

Your nurse is:

.....

Ward telephone number.....

Alternatively, you can discuss the AMBER care bundle with the ward Sister or Charge Nurse, or your Consultant.

