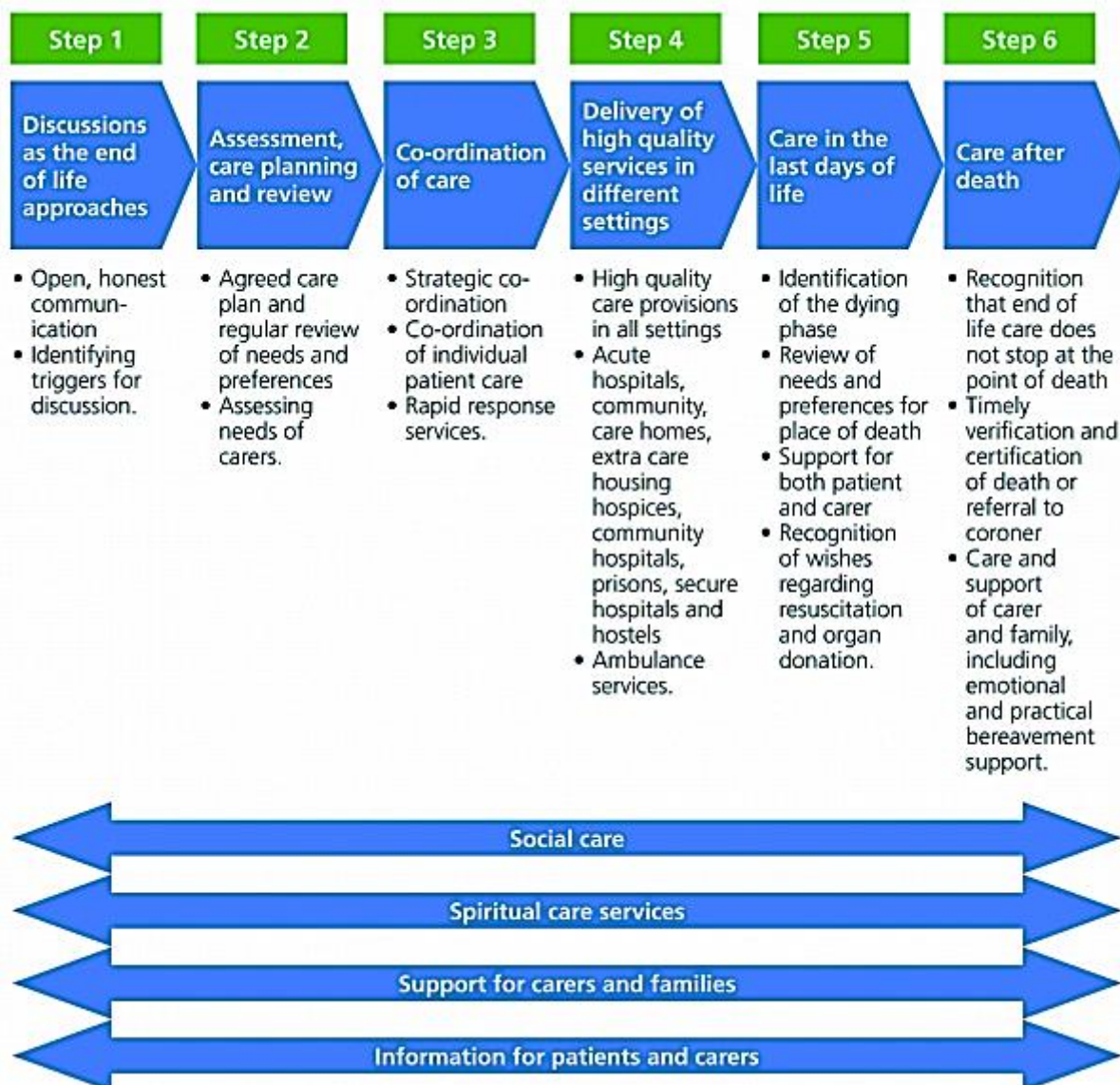


End of Life Care Pathway

The End of Life Care Pathway, as set out in the End of Life Care Strategy (DH 2008), comprises of six steps and was developed to help anyone providing health and social care to people nearing the end of life.



It aims to ensure that high quality, person-centred care is provided which is well planned, co-ordinated and monitored, while being responsive to the individual's needs and wishes.

Step 1 - Discussions as the end of life approaches



A key challenge for staff is knowing how and when to open up a discussion with individuals, and their relatives, about what they wish for as they near the end of life. Agreement needs to be reached on when discussions should occur, who should initiate them and the skills and competences staff require to take on this role.

Tools to help include:

- [Find your 1% campaign](#), helping GPs and other health and social care staff to identify those approaching the end of their life, talk about preferences and wishes and put plans in place
- [Finding the words](#) workbook and DVD
- [Support sheets](#), for example on principles of good communication
- [e-ELCA e-learning](#) modules on initiating conversations and communications skills - free for health and social care staff
- The [AMBER care bundle](#)
- Gold Standards Framework [Prognostic Indicator Guidance](#)
- [Quick guide to identifying patients for supportive and palliative care](#)
- [Supportive & Palliative Care Indicators Tool](#) (SPICT)
- Resources from the Dying Matters Coalition, including [leaflets](#) and [short films](#).
- [Case studies relating to Step 1 of the care pathway](#)