



An evaluation involving 113 health professionals, hospice patients and carers explored how ReSPECT is used across primary care, community, hospice and ambulance services.

113

participants across
health and care services

The findings show strong support for ReSPECT - and clear opportunities to improve information sharing, documentation quality, patient understanding and review processes.



WHAT MAKES RESPECT WORK?

Person-centred care is the common thread

01 Meaningful conversations

- Right time
- Trusted relationships
- Skilled communication

02 Quality documentation

- Clear recommendations
- What matters to the patient
- Up-to-date plans

03 Accessible information

- Available across services
- Visible in emergencies
- Easy to review and update

THREE FINDINGS FOR CLINICAL TEAMS

What the evaluation tells us

1 ReSPECT is more than a form

Patients and carers described ReSPECT as a conversation rather than paperwork. Trust in community and hospice clinicians was often more important than the document itself.

"It was like having a conversation... with you as a friend in a way."

Health professionals agreed that ReSPECT works best when discussions are timely, person-centred and supported by trusting relationships.

2 Good documentation supports good decisions

Well-completed ReSPECT plans were highly valued across all services, particularly in urgent situations.

Most helpful plans:

- 1) What matters to the patient; 2) Clear treatment recommendations; 3) Describe escalation plans; 4) Regular review

3 Sharing information remains a challenge

Patients, carers and professionals highlighted difficulties accessing the right information at the right time.

Limited interoperability • paper copies in emergencies • duplicated documentation • uncertainty about the current version

Carers often became the link between services by finding, carrying and presenting ReSPECT forms during crises.

Important: incomplete or DNACPR-only forms were often viewed as much less useful.

RESPECT SHOULD NOT BE A ONE-OFF EVENT

Build review into the process

Assessment



Conversation



ReSPECT plan



Review after significant changes

Hospital discharge

Change in health status

Change in care setting

Change in patient wishes

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Work across Leeds will focus on:

- ✓ Improving access to ReSPECT information across services
- ✓ Strengthening communication-focused training
- ✓ Supporting timely review following significant changes in circumstances
- ✓ Updating patient and carer information resources
- ✓ Improving access for underserved groups