

**Coronavirus Pandemic – Memento for Bereaved Families and Carers- Knitted Hearts**

At this challenging time when COVID-19 is affecting so many people we are looking at ways our nursing and midwifery staff can support families following the death of their loved one. Knitted hearts will be offered to families with another remaining with the deceased in the hope it will allow them to feel more connected to their relative who has recently died.

* Knitters are asked to use clean wool and once they are knitted to deliver the hearts in re-sealable plastic bags with the date clearly written on it.
* Hearts will be handed in to or posted to front desk at main entrance of hospital.
* Wards will complete a requisition slip for volunteers to bring to wards.
* Volunteers will then bring to each ward and hand to ward receptionist or nurse on ward.
* Hearts will be stored on ward and date checked before using (5 days after date on bag).
* Staff to allow 5 days before the hearts can be used.
* Ward staff to make clinical/professional judgement on whether to offer hearts to families.
* One knitted (or cloth) heart to be placed in the hand of the person who has died and one matching heart with family member. If more than one close relative more than one matching heart can be given.

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