

An End-of-Life Timeline with an emphasis on Death at Home

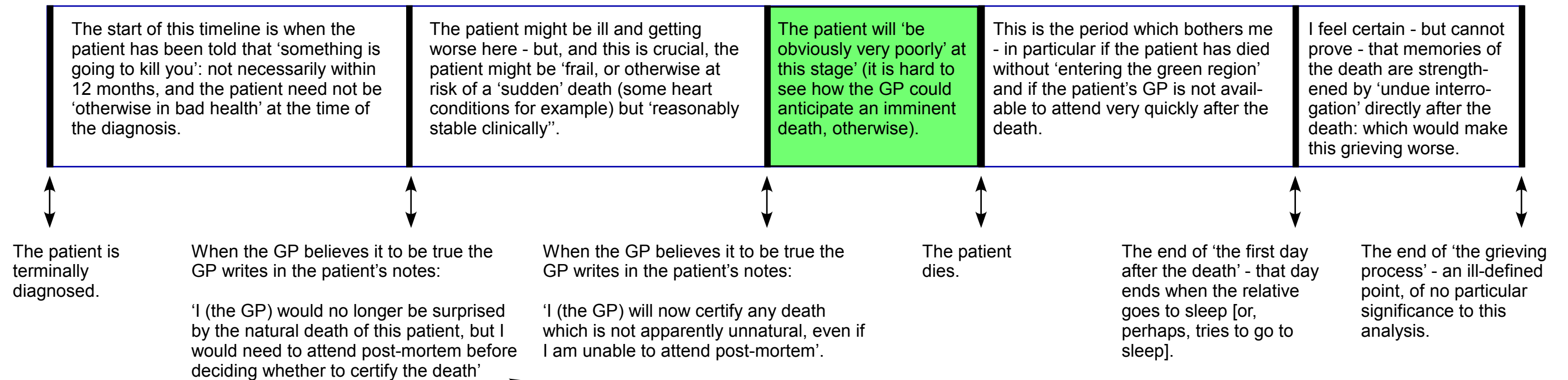
I have discussed the essence of this piece with a group of GPs, and the 'essential comment was:

'In summary, I think you have a valid and reasonable point about proportionality in many ways ... In addition, with the national drive to increase 'deaths in the community' there will be gaps and potential unintended consequences that become more apparent with the shift in care. I think you have picked up on one of these issues, although I suspect there are more to think through.'

It is quite likely that attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) would inevitably be unsuccessful once the GP has written that second note.

But the patient can forbid CPR at any point - so people should stop using DNACPR as a proxy for 'expected death':

http://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Discuss_and_debate/Discussion_forum/?obj=viewThread&threadID=847&forumID=45



I became involved in this end-of-life stuff when my mother died - see a little way in to my piece at:

http://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Discuss_and_debate/Discussion_forum/?obj=viewThread&threadID=814&forumID=45

Currently some frankly absurd things happen - a London GP was discussing this with the London Ambulance Service a couple of years ago:

'As you know we have had a recent death of a 103 yr old woman in a nursing home where the ambulance and police were called.

I wanted to ensure that our DN teams are aware of the importance of clarifying to ambulance staff that a death is EXPECTED. This ensures that the family are treated with compassion by ambulance staff and the police, in the unfortunate event that they are called.'

It is absolutely crucial that the people living with the patient are aware of this statement in the medical notes - see my piece at:

http://www.dignityincare.org.uk/Discuss_and_debate/Discussion_forum/?obj=viewThread&threadID=785&forumID=45

There are some fundamental issues which need to be sorted out about 'DNACPR' - see, for example, my pieces at:

<http://www.bmj.com/content/352/bmj.i26/rr>

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h2157/rr-1>

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h841/rr-2>

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h2640/rr-2>