

Time line	Fast track (immediate referral to palliative care service)	Best standard care (wait list control)
Consent and Baseline Interview	(a)	
Randomisation		
48 hours	B	
1-6 weeks	C	
6 weeks	(d)	(d)
6-12 weeks	E	
12 weeks	(f)	(f)
48 hours after 12 week interview		G
12-18 weeks	H	I
18 weeks		(j)
19-24 weeks		K
24-26 weeks	(l)	(l)

(a)	Baseline research interview and consent on entry to the study before randomisation
B	Palliative care assessment within 48 hours
C	Palliative care team care, including assessment, treatment, referral
(d)	Research interview at 6 weeks after randomisation
E	Palliative care team care continues usually ending by 12 weeks, with referral on for those patients needing long term care
(f)	Research interview at 12 weeks after randomisation
G	Standard care group now offered palliative care team who see person within 48 hours of receiving information
H	Patients now discharged from palliative care team, if have been referred on some under care of community team, which continues from this point
I	Palliative care team now providing care in standard care group, following their 12 week wait
(j)	Research interview at 18 weeks, only for best standard care group, now 4-6 weeks after they have received the team care
K	Palliative care team continues to support standard intervention group
(l)	Final research interview, 24-26 weeks after randomisation