



End-of-Life Pathway


Supporting older people during the final stage of life.


About the End-of-Life Pathway

The End-of-Life Pathway is a short-term pathway under the Support at Home program. It supports older people who have been diagnosed with 3 months or less to live and wish to remain at home, by providing more funding to access in-home aged care services.

The End-of-Life Pathway is designed to complement services received through states and territories, including palliative care services. If your patient is not receiving palliative care support, learn more about the [referral pathways](#).

What does this mean for your patients?


 An older person will have access to a budget of \$25,000 over 12 weeks. They can access this for a total of 16 weeks.

 They can access services from the Support at Home service list that they have been approved for in their support plan discussed during their aged care assessment.

These services can include, for example:

- Personal care including bathing and toileting
- Domestic assistance including home cleaning or shopping assistance
- Nursing care to keep the older person comfortable.

List of Support at Home services – [Health.gov.au/Support-at-Home-Service-List](https://www.health.gov.au/support-at-home-service-list)

 The End-of-Life Pathway can only be used once. If your patient needs care beyond 3 months, they can access Support at Home ongoing services. Their provider can request an urgent Support Plan Review to ensure services continue.

How will I be kept informed?

Support at Home participants are assigned a care partner by their aged care provider.

Under the End-of-Life Pathway, care partners liaise and coordinate with the participant's doctor, medical team and any state or territory palliative care services.

Where to go for more information

[Your guide to the End-of-Life Pathway](#) for older people

[End-of-Life Pathway – factsheet for doctors and nurse practitioners](#) for doctors and nurse practitioners

[End-of-Life Pathway form](#)

[Support at Home service list](#) for the list of services Support at Home funding can be used for.

[Support at Home](#) – more information about the Support at Home program.

How to support your patient to access the End-of-Life Pathway

1 Confirm eligibility

An older person is eligible to access the End-of-Life Pathway if they meet the following criteria:

- A doctor or nurse practitioner advised estimated life expectancy of 3 months or less to live;
- Australian-modified Karnofsky Performance Status (AKPS) score (mobility/frailty indicator) of 40 or less.

2 Complete the End-of-Life Pathway form

The [End-of-Life Pathway form](#) captures your patient's medical eligibility for the End-of-Life Pathway. Your patient cannot be assessed for the End-of-Life Pathway without the completed form.

Doctor's or nurse practitioners need to fill out the form, include the AKPS and relevant clinical details, and sign the form.

Australian-modified Karnofsky Performance Status (AKPS)

- The AKPS is a measure of an individual's overall performance status or ability to perform their daily activities.
- The AKPS is a single score between 10 and 100 based on observations of a patient's ability to perform common tasks relating to activity, work, and self-care
- Decreasing numbers indicates a reduced performance status (a score of 40 or lower indicates a person is in bed more than 50% of the time).
- Only scores in multiples of 10 are used. These requirements are consistent with the current palliative care entry pathway for residential aged care.

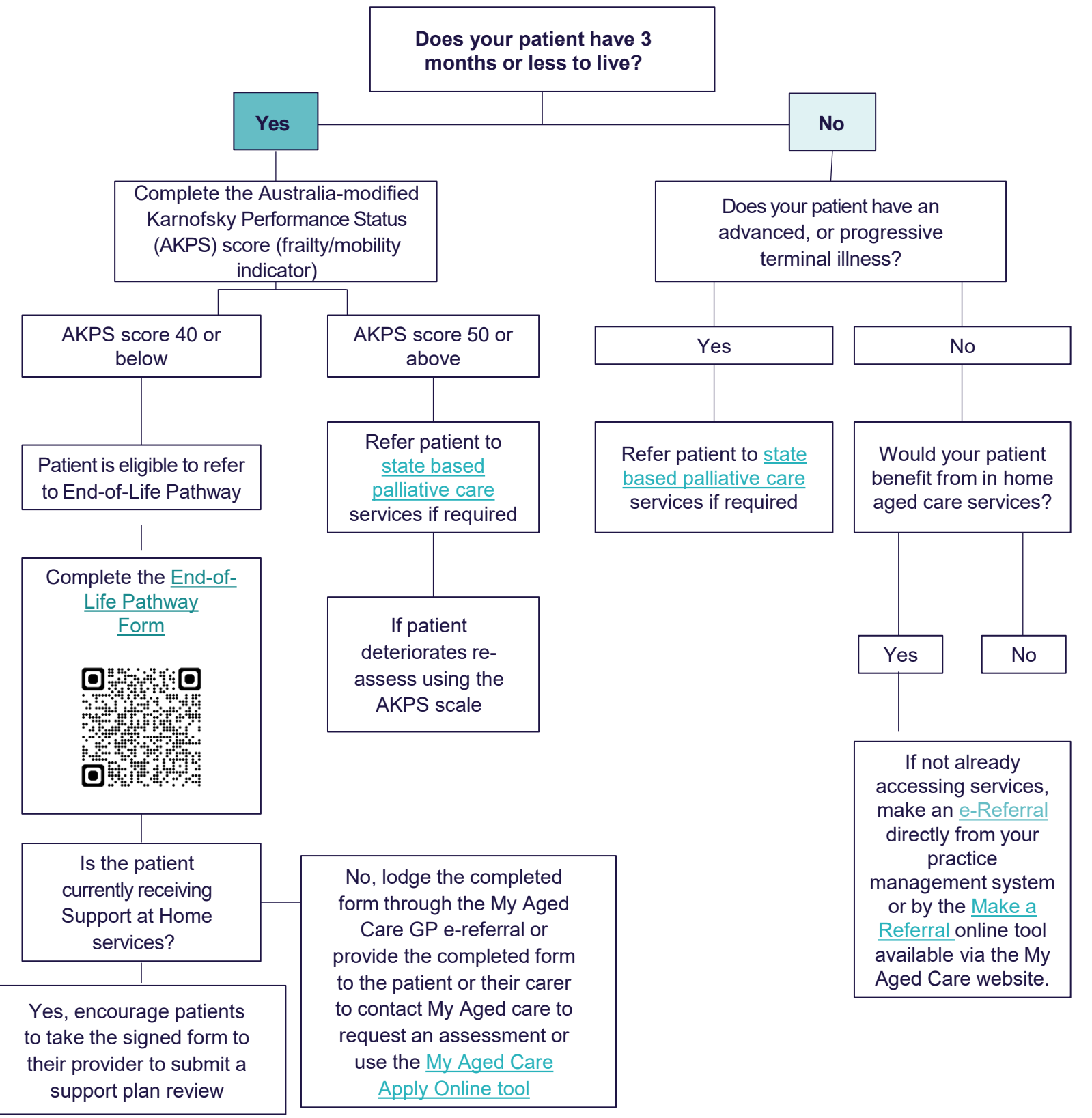
3 How to submit the End-of-Life Pathway form

- Provide the completed form to the patient or their carer/representative to contact My Aged Care to request an assessment or use the [My Aged Care Apply Online tool](#), or
- Lodge the completed form through GP e-referral for patients who are not currently receiving aged care services, or
- Encourage patients who are receiving aged care services to take the form to their provider.

For more information about how to access the End-of-Life pathway, [click here](#).



End-of-Life Pathway Referral Flowchart



Does your patient have 3 months or less to live?

Yes

No

Complete the Australia-modified Karnofsky Performance Status (AKPS) score (frailty/mobility indicator)

Does your patient have an advanced, or progressive terminal illness?

AKPS score 40 or below

AKPS score 50 or above

Yes

No

Patient is eligible to refer to End-of-Life Pathway

Refer patient to [state based palliative care](#) services if required

Refer patient to [state based palliative care](#) services if required

Would your patient benefit from in home aged care services?

Complete the [End-of-Life Pathway Form](#)



If patient deteriorates re-assess using the AKPS scale

Yes

No

Is the patient currently receiving Support at Home services?

No, lodge the completed form through the My Aged Care GP e-referral or provide the completed form to the patient or their carer to contact My Aged care to request an assessment or use the [My Aged Care Apply Online tool](#)

If not already accessing services, make an [e-Referral](#) directly from your practice management system or by the [Make a Referral](#) online tool available via the My Aged Care website.

Yes, encourage patients to take the signed form to their provider to submit a support plan review