

# Frank's story: End of Life, Chronic conditions



- Frank is 59 and lives in Liverpool. He is a heavy drinker but is in denial, believing that he is only a moderate consumer of alcohol, which he feels he does mostly in social situations. Frank is fiercely independent and does not believe he needs, nor does he like to accept help from anyone. Frank lives in a bedsit which is sparsely furnished with a solitary sofa bed, a TV and very few personal belongings. Everything else that he had once owned has either been sold or discarded. His wife left him in 2003 because she could no longer tolerate his heavy drinking.
- In 2009, Frank tripped on a pavement slab, twisting his ankle and bashing his head on the floor. He visited his GP. During the assessment, his doctor attempted to enquire about his drinking habits and frequency of alcohol consumption. Frank avoided giving a straight answer and never went back to see his GP again.
- Having been living with undiagnosed dementia for the last few years, Frank has become steadily more withdrawn and lost any interest in sustaining relationships with friends and keeping up his hobbies. He finds it difficult to follow conversations and often loses track of what time of year it is.
- Frank tends to use the local emergency services when he gets into trouble. There have been 25 attendances in the last 12 months – a mixture of A&E at the Royal, Aintree and Whiston. Frank has presented with a wide variety of symptoms, including falls, aches and pains, vomiting, lacerations and chest pains. Following a full work up, the chest pains were diagnosed as chronic colorectal cancer.
- The hospital are keen to get him into a hospice down the road from his bedsit as they are conscious that he doesn't have much time left.