



Frank's story - severe chest infection and recovering

Frank is 72 years old. He lives alone at home and has family and friends close by. Frank has been unwell with a cough and a temperature for a week or so. He becomes severely short of breath and unable to talk easily. On Friday evening his friend calls the ambulance and tells the paramedics that Frank is struggling to breathe and talk. When the paramedics arrive, they carry out continuous observations on Frank, closely monitoring him and giving him oxygen treatment in the ambulance on the way to the specialist emergency care hospital. The consultant in the emergency department assesses Frank's condition and diagnoses him with pneumonia (a severe chest infection). She immediately refers him to the intensive care unit (ICU). Frank is reviewed by the ICU consultant and team, who very quickly put a clear treatment plan in place.

By Sunday evening, Frank is well enough to be moved out of ICU to a medical ward at the specialist emergency care

hospital. He still needs antibiotic injections and a daily medical review, as well as treatment from the chest physiotherapist on the ward. He is gradually getting better but is not yet well enough to go home. After five days in hospital, Frank can breathe more easily and is taking antibiotic tablets rather than having antibiotic injections. He is keen to go home, but his time in hospital has left him feeling weak and unable to walk very far.

The team at the specialist emergency care hospital recommend that Frank has some focused rehabilitation in a district hospital to help speed up his recovery. He can continue the treatment for his pneumonia and focus more on getting his strength and his confidence back. Frank is reassured to see the district hospital team are involved in seeing him each day on the ward even before he leaves the specialist emergency care hospital.

Frank is transferred to the district hospital for another five days, before going home feeling stronger and more confident. His family and friends are confident they can help him to manage at home because he is back on his feet before he leaves hospital.

