INFORMATION SHEET

PHASE 2 GOLD CARE AFRICA - SPRING 2027

A training programme for frontline staff, supported by the Andrew Rodger Trust, Prof Keri Thomas OBE, in association with APCA.

www.gsfinternational.org.uk/goldcareafrica

Invitation to Apply

Applications are invited from a limited number of hospitals across Africa to participate in the **Gold Care Africa Phase 2 Pilot Programme**, commencing in **March 2027**.

Building on more than 25 years of experience with the Gold Standards Framework (GSF) in the UK, and on the learning gained from the Gold Care Africa Phase 1 pilot sites, this programme focuses on enabling, upskilling and empowering frontline generalist teams caring for people in the final year of life.

Working in partnership with APCA, Gold Care Africa supports healthcare teams to develop practical palliative and end-of-life care skills, improve patient outcomes, and strengthen coordinated care across their organisations.

TIMESCALE 2006-7
Expression of interest Autumn 2026, Zoom discussions, Application Dec 20th, final with signatures Jan 15th, shortlisting by end Jan, interviews Feb 27, programme starts March 27.

About Gold Care Africa

Gold Care Africa provides a structured, supported, step-by-step approach to developing the palliative and end-of-life care skills of the frontline generalist workforce, working in partnership with specialist teams, adapting to local needs and contexts

Gold Care Africa is a practical Quality Improvement programme. Through QI training, resources, sharing of learning, and tailored metrics, the programme improves the practical skills, confidence and day-to-day work of the frontline workforce. This complements the work of palliative care specialists, to impact the care of a larger numbers of patients nearing the end of life.

It is a very practical programme, measuring ‘what you do’ rather ‘what you know’- i.e. impact and outcomes. The key aims are more **proactive, person-centred coordinated care** for people with any condition in the last year of life, given by the frontline generalist teams. ie

- **More proactive care** by earlier identification of patients in the final year of life
- **More person-centred care** by advance care planning discussions and holistic assessment

- **Better coordinated care** with more support for people to live well and die well, more support for their family, greater spiritual support, after death and bereavement care.

The programme includes all you need to implement radical change on the ground, and is offered **FREE OF CHARGE** to successful candidates, through the charity The Andrew Rodger Trust and contributions from volunteer mentors.

For more information on Phase 1 findings, feedback, impact, articles and films please visit the **Gold Care webpage**

Context

Most people approaching the end of life are cared for by frontline generalist healthcare teams. At the same time, many specialist palliative care services across Africa are overstretched and unable to reach everyone who could benefit from quality care at the end of their lives.

The Gold Standards Framework has been successfully used by thousands of frontline healthcare teams across the UK in hospitals, primary care, social care and community settings. See **GSF Hospital in UK**. Gold Care Africa adapts this proven approach for African healthcare contexts, along with learning from the Phase 1 pilot, with flexibility for local innovation and development.

The programme, which would normally cost many thousands of pounds to deliver, is provided free of charge to participating sites. In addition, successful sites will receive access to training resources and implementation support.

The aim is to focus on areas of unmet need, through the training of the generalist workforce in areas where palliative care can't usually reach. By empowering more frontline generalists at the bedside, through specific training in palliative and end of life for generalist providers, more people can receive high quality care at the end of life.
It is estimated that 30% of UK hospital patients are in the last year of life (Clarke 2014) yet many receive suboptimal care. Therefore, we seek to work initially in hospital general medical wards or other settings, working alongside the palliative care teams where available, focusing on upskilling the frontline care provider nearest the patient, providing care for people in their final year of life.

Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- Address unmet need by strengthening palliative and end-of-life care skills within frontline generalist healthcare teams.
- Increase access to high-quality care for more people previously missed in their final year
- Support generalist teams working at the frontline with little specialist support.
- Promote partnership working and teamworking with healthcare providers, chaplains etc

- Develop practical skills and measurable changes in care delivery.
- Focus on outcomes and impact, measuring not only what staff know, but what they do differently in practice.
- The 5 stage process delivers more proactive, person-centred and coordinated care for more people in the final year of life, given by the frontline teams.

What We Offer

Successful participating sites will receive:

Training

- Free online training programme.
- Educational tools and implementation resources.
- Adapted quality improvement and evaluation metrics.

Implementation Support

- Ongoing support throughout the programme.
- Individual mentoring and coaching support where required.
- Access to expertise from GSF faculty, UK colleagues and invited guest experts.
- Shared experience from those who have previously undertaken this work in Africa

Evaluation and Research

- Participation in a comparative evaluation and research study.
- Opportunities to contribute to presentations and publications arising from the project.

Learning and Networking

- Opportunity to share learning, experience and innovations with participating sites.
- Sharing of best practice in areas of expertise of others eg community care , spiritual care
- Participation in a Gold Care Africa Symposium.

Sustainability and Innovation

- Embedding Gold Care for long term use and extension to other wards and communities
- Support to develop locally relevant innovations within an Africa context
- Ensure long term sustainability of this model of care.

Cost Neutral Training offered free to participating teams

At The Andrew Rodger Trust, our core purpose is to support the delivery of better end of life care through impactful quality improvement training for the frontline generalist workforce. By strengthening the skills and confidence of those providing care, we aim to improve the experience of more people nearing the end of life.

The Gold Care Africa Programme is based on the learning and experience gained through almost 30 years of the **Gold Standards Framework (GSF)** in the UK and internationally. Our ambition is to support as many individuals and organisations across Africa as possible to implement this work and maximise its impact.

In the UK, the GSF UK charity charge for delivery of the training and accreditation programmes in the UK , and GSF International charges for middle and higher-income countries. However, for Gold Care Africa, we have chosen not to charge participants and instead offer the training free of charge as part of our charitable mission.

In most countries, professional training is typically funded by the individual participant. We hope that the training, resources, expertise, and experience we share with you can be regarded as our donation in kind to support improvements in end of life care across Africa. Once accepted onto the programme and committed to participation, there will be no cost for the training, resources, or attendance at the Gold Care Africa Symposium.

Following the success of the Phase 1 pilot, however, we are unfortunately unable to provide grants to every participating team, as we had originally hoped. Doing so would place an unsustainable burden on the limited funds available to our charity.

We therefore offer Gold Care Africa as a **cost-neutral opportunity**. We recognise that participation will require an investment of your time, and we hope that this contribution may be recognised as part of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or other professional learning requirements.

For participants experiencing significant financial hardship, we may be able to offer additional bursary funding as a modest seed-funding grant, subject to specific eligibility criteria and the availability of funds. We are actively seeking further fundraising support in the UK to increase the number of bursaries available, although we cannot guarantee funding at this stage.

If you would like to learn more about bursary support, please contact us separately.

Applicant Requirements

Criteria for Application

Where Gold Care can have the most impact in improving care for people in their final year of life in Africa. Enabling and upskilling generalist frontline teams.

What we ask of you. We are looking for hospital teams that:

- **Interest and excitement** Hospital teams interested in this pioneering pilot, with enthusiasm to innovate locally, keen to develop new approaches to quality end of life care in your hospital /community.
- **Commitment** for the duration, to attend monthly webinars x 8 and Symposium , and your local Gold Care team meetings between workshops.
- **Work force** - where there is a willing and compatible set up for dissemination of the programme e.g. clinicians are keen to improve end of life care including nurses, doctors, RCOs and others.
- **Suitability -** Two wards / hospital – preferably general medical wards (not only palliative/hospices) where impact of training generalists is maximised and there are gaps in provision of care for people in the last years of life. Areas with some access to palliative care but overstretched.
- **Evaluations** Willing to submit homework action plan tasks between workshops, baseline and follow up evaluations as part of research, with support from your senior team/board.
- **Gold Care Africa project lead**, deputy and 1-2 champions from each ward.
- **Longterm vision** Work to self-sustaining, embedded, extended Gold Care in your area.
- **Support.** Confirmed support from the medical team involved, hospital Board and if possible local WHO / local government partnership body confirming support for pilot. Where **government funded** health infrastructure and national culture would support Gold Care Africa and encourage it to grow to become mainstream.
- **Willingness to share your ideas, findings and results** with others and refine next stages.
- **Free training -** they would welcome the benefit of **free training and resourcing** but not funding towards core services.

Programme Timeline (2026-2027/8)

- September-November 2026: Expressions of Interest
- October-November 2026: Introductory Zoom discussions
- 20 December 2026: Application deadline
- 15 January 2027: Final applications and signatures and named Leads due
- End of January 2027: Shortlisting
- February 2027: Interviews
- March 2027: Programme commencement

Further Information

For more details of

- Gold Care Phase 2 - Flyer, films, presentations and learning from Phase 1 see Gold Care Africa here
- For information on the Andrew Rodger Trust charity and other work in Africa see here
- For other GSF international work see GSF International,
- For GSF UK work see here

Any queries

- contact support admin@gsfinternational.org.uk
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- Or APCA Lead, Eve Namisango eve.namisango@africanpalliativecare.org or Dayo at oladayo.afolabi@africanpalliativecare.org or patricia.batanda@africanpalliativecare.org

We look forward to hearing from you

Keri, Megan and the Gold Care Team.