Anyone can participate in the ReSPECT process...
Even if they are currently well. Particular consideration should be given to...
- People with a long-term condition, life limiting condition or disability who may deteriorate suddenly or are at risk of a sudden event.
- People who were otherwise well who have deteriorated suddenly.
- People at foreseeable risk of death or sudden cardiorespiratory arrest.
- People having an intervention, such as major surgery.
- People who are nearing the end of their life.

The ReSPECT process is best started and the form completed when a person is relatively well...
So that, if a crisis occurs, their preferences and agreed clinical recommendations are already known and recorded. However, some people may develop an unexpected sudden, severe illness, so if such an emergency occurs in someone with no ReSPECT form, consider discussing ReSPECT and completing one as soon as is reasonably possible.

The ReSPECT process can be used for people of all ages.
If it is used for a child or young person, it is crucial to ensure appropriate parental or legal guardian involvement.

Any professional involved in a person’s care can initiate the ReSPECT process with endorsement from the senior clinician.
Any health or social care professional who knows the person, their circumstances, their family and other representatives may be the most appropriate to have the conversation. It can be a GP, a hospital doctor or a senior nurse. Sometimes it can be helpful for a second professional to be involved. After discussing and documenting the agreed plan, the professional who completed it must sign it. If they are not the senior clinician in charge of the person’s care, that senior clinician must be aware and approve of the plan, and should sign to endorse it as soon as possible.

Summary

- Anyone can participate in the ReSPECT process, even if they are currently well, but it may be most relevant for people who have particular healthcare needs.
- The ReSPECT process is best started and the form completed when a person is relatively well.
- The ReSPECT process can be used for people of all ages.
- Any professional involved in a person’s care can initiate the ReSPECT process with endorsement from the senior clinician.