



# Palliative

## Care Program



Unrivaled  
Palliative Care,  
emphasizing  
quality of life  
in the  
Visiting Nurse  
Tradition.

### What is Palliative Care?

Palliative Care is for adult and pediatric patients with a potentially life limiting, or chronic disease who still desire curative or life pro-longing treatment. Palliative Care aims to relieve symptoms such as pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, constipation, nausea, loss of appetite and difficulty sleeping. It helps patients gain the strength to carry on with daily life, it improves their ability to tolerate medical treatments, and it helps them better understand their choices for care. Overall, Palliative Care offers patients the best possible quality of life during their illness.

### Why should I consider Palliative Care for my patients?

It is the right thing to do. A key question to ask yourself is “Would you be surprised if your patient died within 2 years?” If your answer is YES, this patient is appropriate for Palliative Care. Palliative Care works best when instituted early in a life limiting diagnosis. Palliative Care planning should begin early in a patient’s journey of a debilitating illness.

### What is the difference between Palliative Care and Hospice?

#### PALLIATIVE CARE:

- Patient must be homebound
- Must have a skilled need
- Patient is still seeking curative treatment for disease

#### HOSPICE:

- Homebound not necessary
- No skilled need necessary
- Must have a prognosis of 6 months or less to live
- Comfort measures – not curative



## Benefits of Palliative Care for Your Patients - Palliative Care Attributes:

- It is an interdisciplinary – team approach
- It is a whole patient care solution
- It is patient centered
- Provides advanced care planning
- Involves the patient in care planning
- Strengthens the continuum of care
- Improves quality of care

## Benefits for the Health Care Professional:

- It's the right thing to do for your patient
- Palliative Care provides good clinical outcomes
- Allows you to focus on your practice or job
- Your patient and their family will be more satisfied
- Medical error reduction
- Patient loyalty and satisfaction
- Strengthens the continuum of care
- Provides patient centered approach
- Promotes patient and family involvement
- Our Palliative Care program will be able to handle the time intensive patient family communication and after hours calls

## How to Make a Referral to Our Palliative Care Program:

Call our central intake at  
**1-866-777-4862**

or fax us at  
**1-610-378-5429**

Are you aware our agencies have a Pediatric Palliative Care program as well?

## OUR PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM:

Approximately 53,000 children die each year from accidents or trauma, congenital conditions, prematurity, inherited disorders, or acquired illness. Pediatric Palliative Care can help these children and their families receive quality care that focuses on the unique physical, emotional, and spiritual needs during a life-threatening illness or condition.

Our Pediatric Palliative Care program aims to improve quality of life for the pediatric patient as well as for their family. This is done through expert management of pain and other physical symptoms such as shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, and anxiety. It is also done through emotional and spiritual support services, offering the patient and family specialized counseling to help them cope with the roller coaster of emotions that result from dealing with a serious illness or condition.

*Your patients can benefit from our program.*



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