

Our Hospice provides a palliative approach to care... but what does that mean?



A Palliative Approach to Care:

- Can help improve quality of life for you and those around you
- Places the focus of concern on the patient and their families. A “family” is whomever the person includes. This may be relatives, partners or friends
- Addresses symptoms that may cause discomfort, such as pain, nausea, shortness of breath, loss of appetite or confusion
- Includes planning for care that considers the social, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs
- Uses a team approach ensuring that all care providers provide care in a respectful and supportive manner
- Can be combined with other treatments aimed at reducing or curing the illness, such as chemotherapy and/or radiation. It does not hasten death. It provides increased comfort and quality of life from diagnosis of an advanced illness until end of life
- Can be provided wherever the patient is – in a home, shelter, care facility, hospital or hospice

Common Questions About Palliative Care:

Does accepting something like palliative care mean "giving up?"

Not at all, palliative care focuses on quality of life for those who have been diagnosed with an advanced illness. Hope becomes less about cure and more about living life as fully as possible

Does a palliative care involvement mean that end of life is imminent?

Palliative care can be initiated at the time of diagnosis and support an individual for many months. Palliative care interventions do not hasten a person's end of life, rather supports the patient's comfort along their journey

Do I have to stop all treatments before accessing palliative care?

Palliative care can begin at the time of a life-limiting diagnosis and co-exist with other treatments

Is palliative care only for people who are dying of cancer?

Palliative care can benefit patients and their families from time of diagnosis of ANY illness that may shorten life

Can taking properly prescribed pain medication in palliative care lead to addiction or hasten death?

Keeping people comfortable often requires increased doses of pain medication. This is a result of tolerance to medication as the body adjusts, not addiction. Appropriate doses keep patients comfortable, but do not hasten death