

Palliative Care Program

Palliative Care is care and treatment that enhances comfort and improves quality of life. Using a comprehensive approach, palliative care helps to provide care for patients who have been diagnosed with a serious or life-threatening illness. This care can begin at the time of diagnosis. Different from hospice care, palliative care may continue along with curative treatment. The primary goal of palliative care is to prevent or relieve the burdens imposed by diseases and their treatments.

Palliative care addresses symptoms in all facets of patient care including physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual issues. As the disease progresses, the severity of symptoms may increase. The Palliative Care Team will work together to support the patient's comfort in ways that are consistent with the patient's values and expressed wishes. The ultimate goal for palliative care is to provide the best quality of life possible within the confines of the disease.

The role of the Palliative Care Nurse is multifaceted and collaborative. The primary function is to assist the bedside nurses in the management of any uncontrolled symptoms the patient may be experiencing such as pain, anxiety, shortness of breath or nausea. Another focus is to provide information to the patient and family about the disease process to help them make informed decisions regarding treatment choices, along with support and comfort to the family to help alleviate emotional, psychosocial and spiritual suffering associated with a life-threatening illness. Palliative Care also works with physicians and other healthcare providers to ensure continuity of care.

This year has seen an increase in palliative care referrals by 36% over last year. This process requires an order from the physician to allow for collaboration of care. The in-patient hospice care at the end of life has provided comfort care to many and has resulted in increased family satisfaction.

Palliative Care plays an important role and will be needed even more as the need for health care services increases. It also saves healthcare costs to the patient by appropriate allocation of resources. Palliative care is a wise choice for improved quality of life and reduced suffering.

To learn more about available services, contact Jill Demmitt, RN, Palliative Care Nurse at (937) 440-4828.



Jill Demmitt, RN
Palliative Care Nurse

“Every evening I turn my worries
over to God.
He’s going to be up all night anyway.”

- Mary C. Crowley