



Learning About Palliative Care and Hospice Care

UPMC
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

Palliative Care

Hospice Care

| What is Palliative Care and Hospice Care? | <p>This care helps people live as well as possible while facing serious or life-limiting health problems. This includes managing symptoms and supporting patients with the choices they need to make.</p> | <p>This care helps people who are near the end of life and have an illness that cannot be cured. Hospice care focuses on keeping people comfortable at home or home-like setting by managing symptoms and pain.</p> |
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| Who can receive this type of care? | <p>People with serious conditions such as but not limited to: cancer, dementia, heart disease, advanced lung disease, liver disease, or kidney disease.</p> <p>Palliative care can start at any time during an illness, even at diagnosis or while getting other treatments. It can also help when the illness is at a later stage.</p> | <p>People with these conditions might benefit from hospice care: cancer, dementia, heart disease, advanced lung disease, liver disease, or kidney disease.</p> <p>Hospice care can start when treatments to cure the illness are no longer being used.</p> <p>You can choose to leave hospice care at any time.</p> |
| What services are provided? | <p>This care focuses on relieving pain, controlling symptoms, providing emotional support, and helping individuals choose treatments that are right for them.</p> <p>Palliative care can change over time to meet a person's needs. As those needs grow, the number of visits and types of support can also increase.</p> | <p>This care focuses on helping people stay at home and feel as comfortable as possible by treating symptoms of the disease rather than the disease itself.</p> <p>Hospice care supports more than just the person who is receiving the service. The care team also helps the whole family, both during the illness and after.</p> |
| Who provides this care? | <p>The palliative care team can include specialists, nurses, social workers, and other supports. These team members work with the doctors you already know and trust.</p> | <p>Hospice care is provided by a specialized team that is led by a doctor and includes nurses, social workers, chaplains, volunteers, hospice aides, and therapists. These team members work with the doctors you already know and trust.</p> |
| Where does care happen? | <p>Depending on where you are, palliative care can be given at home, in hospitals, outpatient clinics, or long-term care facilities. Visits can happen in person or through video or phone calls.</p> | <p>Depending on where you are, hospice care can be given at home, in hospitals, or long-term care facilities. Visits are in person.</p> |
| Does insurance cover services? | <p>Both palliative care and hospice care are often covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most insurance plans.</p> | |