

Palliative Care Information

*for patients
and families*

*Our mission is to enhance the comfort
and quality of life of individuals
impacted by serious illness.*



BRIDGINGLIFE

Compassionate care for life's transitions

what is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

Who provides palliative care?

Palliative care is provided by BridgingLife's specially trained team of providers, nurses and other specialists who work together with a patient's other healthcare providers to offer an extra layer of support. Palliative care is based on the needs of the patient, not on the patient's prognosis. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage of a serious illness.

What services do the palliative care team offer?

- Help manage distressing symptoms related to serious illness, such as pain, shortness of breath, nausea, constipation, loss of appetite, fatigue and anxiety
- Provide emotional and spiritual support
- Assist with the completion of advance care planning documents, such as an advance directive and living will
- Assist with the completion of Medical Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) document
- Provide education about your serious illness
- Help identify community resources to support your social needs

How can palliative care help individuals and their families?

With the support of your palliative care team, you can expect a better understanding of your illness, completion of goals-of-care documents and an increased quality of life.

Who can benefit from palliative care support?

Anyone with a serious illness who is starting to feel the effects of their illness can benefit. These effects include distressing symptoms, emotional distress, increased hospitalizations or increased physician appointments.



What is the difference between palliative care and hospice care?

Both types of care focus on quality of life. Palliative care can be provided at any time during an individual's serious illness and can be used while continuing to seek aggressive treatment. Hospice care is provided at the end of life, when a person has an estimated prognosis of 6 months or less to live and has decided to stop aggressive or curative treatment.

Where can I receive palliative care?

The palliative care team can see you in the hospital, your home, assisted living facility, or nursing home.

Who pays for palliative care?

Medicare and commercial insurance companies pay for the provider visits. Otherwise, the nurses, social worker and chaplain are covered through LifeBridge Health.

learn more

Call BridgingLife at 410-871-8000 or visit bridginglifecare.org to learn more about our palliative care services.



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