



## Inpatient Palliative Care

### What Is Palliative Care?

Palliative care focuses on increasing the quality of life for patients with life limiting, or life-threatening illness. The palliative care team works with providers to assure that patients and their families make informed health care decisions and that symptom management and emotional and spiritual support are optimized. Our palliative care team includes a physician, nurse practitioners, a licensed clinical social worker, and spiritual care counselors. The team works together to promote quality of life for patients and families facing life threatening illness.

### What Does Palliative Care Do?

Patients with a serious illness may be burdened by pain or other symptoms and find themselves facing difficult decisions regarding their treatment. The palliative care team helps patients and families navigate this complex decision-making process. Expert symptom management is provided in conjunction with curative interventions to provide the best possible care.

### When Should a Patient Be Referred to Palliative Care?

- If the patient has repeated hospitalizations, declining health, or is having setbacks in their recovery from serious illness.
- When the current treatment plan seems inconsistent with the patient's goals, or the patient refuses treatment due to concerns about how it will affect their quality of life.
- When guidance is requested with complex healthcare decisions for issues such as dialysis, feeding tubes, or other invasive procedures.

### Who Can Make a Palliative Care Referral?

Anyone can request a consult via the patient's physician

**For questions or more information, please contact the palliative care office, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at 1-415-925-7560.**

### Our Team



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