

What Health Conditions qualify for a Palliative Care Consultation?

- Advanced lung disease such as chronic obstructive lung disease (i.e. COPD) or pulmonary fibrosis
- Advanced cardiac disease such as heart failure or severe coronary artery disease
- Cancer (any stage of disease but especially metastatic/ recurrent disease)
- Late-stage renal disease
- Stroke with increased dependency for daily activities
- Chronic neurological disorders (i.e. dementia, multiple sclerosis, ALS, etc.)
- Other life-limiting illness or injury

Palliative care may be administered at home, at a facility, or at Silver Cross Hospital. Palliative Care is covered by most insurance plans including Medicare Part B.



The way you *should* be treated.

1900 Silver Cross Blvd. • New Lenox, IL 60451
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Palliative Care



The Right Care at the Right Time:

An “extra layer of support” for individuals living with a chronic or serious illness.



The way you *should* be treated.™

What is Palliative Care?

- A medical specialty that aims to improve quality of life for individuals living with chronic or serious illness by means of identification, assessment and treatment of their physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs.
- Expert symptom management for pain and other distressing symptoms.
- Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage of a serious illness and can be provided along with curative or disease-modifying treatment.
- Palliative care specialists use a team approach to treat patients in partnership with other members of the health care team including the primary care physician, medical specialists and family.
- Palliative care affirms life and regards dying as a natural process.

How does Palliative Care Help?

- Provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms of illness as well as treatment side-effects.
- Improves understanding of the disease process, treatment options and what to expect.
- Offers a support system to help families cope with illness and caregiver concerns.
- Improves patient and family satisfaction with care by enhancing quality of life and may positively influence the course of illness.

When Should Palliative Care be Considered?

Individuals of any age with acute, serious or life-threatening illness who are seeking curative or aggressive treatment can receive this type of care along with other treatments. **There is absolutely no reason to wait.**

You should consider palliative care when you:

- Have symptoms that affect quality of life.
- Encounter intense, ongoing pain on a day-to-day basis.
- Can no longer manage daily tasks and need more support.
- Experience frequent hospital admissions.
- Have a prolonged hospital stay without evidence of progress or recovery.
- Experience a continuing decline in health.

What is the difference between Palliative Care and Hospice?

One of the most common barriers for access to palliative care is the misconception that palliative care is the same as hospice. All individuals in hospice receive palliative care, but not all who receive palliative care are at the end of life. Key differences between palliative and hospice care are described below.

Palliative Care	Hospice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Can begin early in the disease process.✓ Is appropriate for serious or life-threatening illness, independent of prognosis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ End-of-life care.■ Anticipated survival is six months or less.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Focuses on managing distressing symptoms in combination with curative or life-prolonging treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Focuses on comfort and dignity at the end of life by means of aggressive symptom management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Services billed under Medicare B or other healthcare plan benefit.✓ Does NOT restrict access to other eligible services or healthcare providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Services billed under Medicare A or other plan benefit for hospitalization.■ Comprehensive services provided by hospice team.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Periodic visits monthly or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Periodic visits weekly or more plus access to an on call hospice nurse 24 hours a day as needed.

