

Richmond University Medical Center

Palliative Care Services



*Compassion, Dignity,
Excellence, and Respect*



A GUIDE TO PALLIATIVE CARE

What Is Palliative Care?

Palliative care focuses on providing medical care for the symptoms and stress of a serious illness – at any stage. The ultimate goal of palliative care is the improved quality of life for the patient and their family.

Who can receive palliative care?

Any individual diagnosed with a serious, limiting, or terminal illness can request palliative care if they are suffering pain, stress, or symptoms related to their illness. Some examples of illnesses or conditions include Alzheimer's disease, cancer, dementia, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, kidney disease, lung disease, and multiple sclerosis (MS).

Dealing with the diagnosis and symptoms of a limiting, serious, or even terminal illness affects the individual and their family in many ways. During this stressful and difficult time, Richmond University Medical Center provides comprehensive palliative care services for patients and their loved ones.



Who provides palliative care?

We have assembled a team of caring, highly skilled specialists to provide unmatched person-centered care. Our palliative care team includes specially trained physicians, nurses, social workers, pastoral care providers, and additional specialists.

Does palliative care replace primary medical care or treatments?

No. Palliative care does not replace primary care treatments. Instead, the palliative care team works alongside the primary care services being provided. It is an extra layer of support for the patient and their families.

Is palliative care hospice care?

No. While both palliative and hospice care focus on improving quality of life, hospice focuses on continuing comfort care when a person's condition has progressed to the last phases of a terminal illness. A patient does not need to be diagnosed with a terminal illness to receive palliative care.

Does palliative care include hospice care?

Yes. Hospice care is offered by our palliative care team, if needed.



What services does palliative care provide?

- ▶ **Care coordination:** To ensure seamless delivery of services and support in coordination with your primary care provider.
- ▶ **Behavioral health counseling:** To help with stress, anxiety, and emotional needs.
- ▶ **Pain management:** To provide additional relief and improve comfort, in consultation with your medical providers.
- ▶ **Spiritual care:** To provide religious services, faith-based guidance, and comfort, from clergy of all faiths.
- ▶ **Social service referrals:** To identify and connect patients with community resources that further expand needed services.
- ▶ **Home/facility care management:** To coordinate services either in a facility or at home to ensure comfort and ease.
- ▶ **End of life planning:** To provide discreet and respectful assistance with DNRs, funeral arrangements, and advanced directives.

Where is palliative care provided?

Palliative care can be provided in many places including the hospital, outpatient facilities, and at home.

Is palliative care covered by insurance?

Most insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, cover palliative care.





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