Palliative Care vs. Hospice Care

The importance of seeking palliative and hospice care

Seeking palliative and hospice care isn't about giving up hope or hastening death, but rather a way to get the most appropriate and best quality care in the last phase of a person's life. Both palliative care and hospice care are meant to manage symptoms and provide comfort including pain relief, but they differ in some important ways.

Palliative Care

Hospice Care

Definition

Specialized medical care for patients with a serious or or life-limiting illness. Palliative care can be provided concurrently with disease-directed therapy.
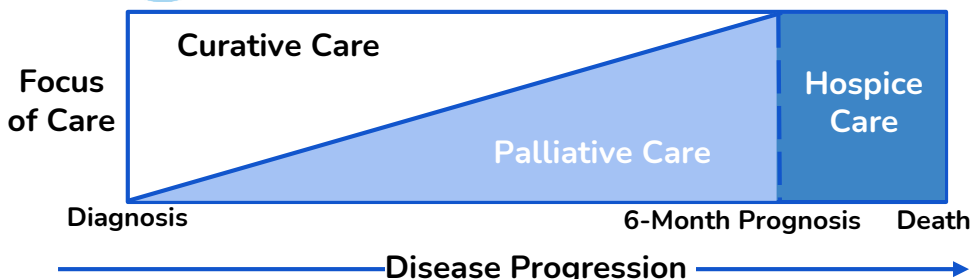
Provides comfort care to people in the final phase of life. The goal is to enable patients to be comfortable and free of pain so that they live each day as fully as possible.

Benefit

- Pain and other symptom management
- Assistance & support in coping with the stressors of living with a life-limiting illness
- Improves quality of life
- Assist with medical decision-making and advance care planning

- Provides relief from the symptoms and physical and mental stress
- Improves quality of life
- Decreases the burden on family
- Support the natural process of dying

Eligibility

- Physician order
- Diagnosis of a life-limiting illness during any stage of a disease, ideally early in the course of an illness

- Physician order
- Diagnosis of a terminal illness
- Certification by a physician of prognosis likely to be 6 months or less

Location

At Home / Hospital / Nursing Home / Specialty Care Facility

At Home / Specialty Care Facility

Caregiver

Doctors / Nurses / Social workers / Therapists / Spiritual counselors

Doctors / Nurses / Social workers / Chaplain / Volunteers

Talk to your doctors to learn more about palliative and hospice care options.

Focus of Care

Curative Care

Palliative Care

Hospice Care

Diagnosis   6-Month Prognosis   Death

Disease Progression

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