

# Palliative Care



– *Feel Better*



## If your patient has:

- Chronic illness
- Uncontrolled symptoms (pain, nausea, etc.)
- Frequent emergency room visits
- Multiple medications from various physicians
- Conflicting medical opinions

## Our Palliative Care program may be what they need to:

- Control symptoms
- Reduce emergency room visits
- Coordinate communications and medications

*Call today to make a referral  
or obtain more information*

**800.425.4444**

*PALLIATIVE CARE IS A COVERED SERVICE UNDER MEDICARE PART B,  
ALLOWING SENIOR LIVING VISITS AS WELL AS HOME VISITS FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY.*



**PALLIATIVE CARE**  
of Northeastern Illinois

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# Palliative Care

## Examples of ways Palliative Care can assist your patients:

### Chronic illness:

- Cancer – metastatic lesions, considering different treatment options
- COPD – greater difficulty breathing, more challenged in daily activities
- Stroke – decreased function, loss of independence
- Renal disease – increased fatigue or malaise
- Cardiac disease – progressive swelling, limited endurance
- Diabetes – diminished quality of life, complications in new area
- ALS - considering nutritional or respiratory support
- Parkinson's disease - dementia, poor functional status
- Fibromyalgia – progressive pain, compromised level of activity

### Indicators of change:

- More than one hospitalization or ER visit within 4 weeks
- Unacceptable level of pain > 24 hours
- Uncontrolled symptoms – e.g., nausea, vomiting, anorexia, dyspnea, recurrent infections, etc.
- Major functional decline – e.g., inability to dress, feed, ambulate, talk, etc.
- Non-healing decubitus ulcers

### Complex issues:

- Multiple medications
- Multiple health care providers
- Undergoing curative therapy with major side effects
- A life-limiting illness or a documented poor prognosis without a comprehensive plan of care
- Unable or unwilling to pursue curative therapy

### Palliative Care:

- Covered under most insurance plans—including Medicare Part B, concurrent with Medicare Part A services, etc.
- Works with physicians and home health care agencies
- Assess your patients in a clinic or residential setting--e.g., home, NH, ALF
- Visit as often as appropriately and medically indicated

### Palliative Care is greatly beneficial yet does have limits...

- Palliative care does not provide CNA, DME or medications
- Chronic pain patients may only be seen for a consultative assessment—not for ongoing management