

WHAT IS PALLIATIVE CARE?

Palliative care is patient-centered, compassionate care for individuals suffering with life-limiting medical conditions, and for those who love and care for that individual. Palliative care focuses on physical, emotional and spiritual needs, with an emphasis on identifying and supporting choices, preserving dignity and maximizing quality of life. Patients receiving palliative care services may or may not also be receiving aggressive, disease-focused therapies.

HOW IS PALLIATIVE CARE DIFFERENT FROM HOSPICE?

Individuals eligible for hospice care services have a prognosis of six months or less to live, have decided against further aggressive disease-focused treatments, and desire support for best quality of life. Palliative care provides the same whole-person focus of care as hospice, but the focus is for patients and families dealing with life-limiting medical conditions that have a likely prognosis of months to years, and where aggressive disease-focused treatments may still be pursued.

HOW DOES A PALLIATIVE MEDICINE CONSULT WORK WITH MY PHYSICIANS?

The Palliative Medicine Consult provider communicates with your primary physician and other members of your medical team to ensure they are aware of expressed needs, proposed therapies and decisions being considered. The Palliative Medicine Consult provider does not replace or change the roles of your other medical providers, but attempts to collaborate with them to achieve the best care possible.

HOW DO I GET A PALLIATIVE MEDICINE CONSULT?

Your primary, specialty or hospital physician can write an order for a Palliative Medicine consult if they or you feel there are needs that palliative care services can assist with.

AUSTIN PALLIATIVE CARE provides residential, community-based palliative care services to patients 21 years or older who have a life-limiting illness with a probable prognosis of two years or less and who have physical difficulty getting to medical visits.

WHERE CAN AUSTIN PALLIATIVE CARE PERFORM A CONSULT VISIT?

- Home
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- Assisted Living Facility