

What Is A Serious Illness?

Many people suffer from advanced illness. There are services that can help you or your family member who has one of these or any other advanced illnesses:

HIV/AIDS	Heart disease
Cancer	Chronic lung disease
Diabetes	Chronic liver disease
Dementia or Alzheimer's	Chronic kidney disease
Stroke	

How Can Hospice and Palliative Care Help You?

Hospice and Palliative Care are services that provide support to improve the quality of life and hope for you and your family when facing the challenges of a serious illness.



“Learning about my choices gave my family and I hope for the journey ahead.”

To find out about services in your area contact:

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

www.nhpc.org

Help Line: (800) 658-8898



When You or Your Family Members Have a Serious Illness:

What Are Your Care Options?

For additional copies of this brochure please contact:

The Center for the Health Professions

3333 California St., Ste. 410

San Francisco, CA 94118

(415) 476-8181

<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/home.html>

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Funding provided by The California Endowment

There Are Services That Can Help You

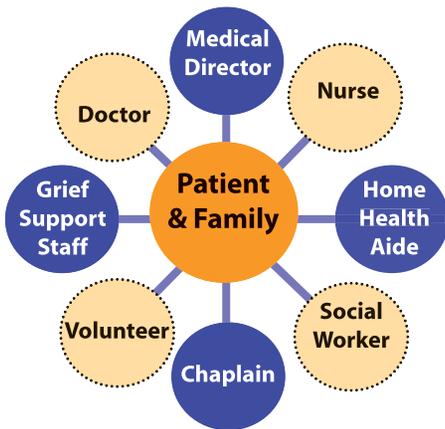
Whether you have been recently diagnosed or have been living with advanced illness, there are services that can help. Palliative and Hospice Care can help guide and support you and your family through the challenges of an advanced illness.

Palliative and Hospice Care Services Can Help With:

- Relief from pain & other physical symptoms
- Discussions about goals of care
- Assistance with talking about difficult subjects with family members
- Guidance with complex treatment choices
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Help with completing forms and making decisions about finances
- Advice about how to talk to children about advanced illness
- Instructions on how to care for a loved one

The Palliative and Hospice Care Teams

A team approach to provide specialized care to you and your family. The team works together to help relieve physical and emotional suffering and to provide spiritual support.



Care Options

Palliative Care and Hospice Care services can be provided in the hospital, home or nursing home. Talk to your doctor to find out which is the best choice for you.

Palliative Care

The goal of Palliative Care is to provide comfort to seriously ill patients and their families through symptom and pain management, communication, and support. It is offered together with all other medical treatments and can begin early on in the illness, even at the time of diagnosis.



Eligibility for Palliative Care

You or a family member living with a serious illness is eligible for Palliative Care while you are in the hospital. Palliative Care can be provided at the same time as life-prolonging treatment. Hospice Care is usually provided at home, nursing home, or residential hospice facility. Individuals who choose hospice services are usually no longer receiving any life-prolonging treatment. Talk to your doctor about your eligibility for hospice services.

Hospice Care

Hospice Care is a type of Palliative Care for patients who are nearing the end of their lives. Hospice Care can be provided at home (mainly by loved ones, but with the help of the hospice team), in a nursing home, or in a residential hospice facility. Hospices provide care in the hospital only under special circumstances, and only for a few days.



Places Where You Can Receive Hospice Care

Home

Residential Facility

Nursing Home

Inpatient Hospice



“I was so relieved to know that my family was supported and that I was not alone.”

Paying for Palliative and Hospice Care

Like any other healthcare service, Palliative and Hospice Care is covered by Medi-Cal, Medicare and most private insurance. If a person does not have insurance, hospice will work with the person and their family to ensure services that are needed can be provided. Some hospice programs will provide services regardless of insurance or immigration status.