



Palliative Care

PATIENT/FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is an approach to the care of patients who have chronic illnesses. The focus is on quality of life and the easing of symptoms. Palliative Care is a team of care providers who coordinate the care of patients and their families. Palliative Care can be provided anytime for symptom management.

Who is eligible for Palliative Care?

Any hospitalized patient with a serious illness such as respiratory disease, dementia and other neurologic disease, heart disease, or cancer is eligible for Palliative Care. A Palliative Care consultation is appropriate in the following situations:

- Uncertainty regarding prognosis and goals of care
- Difficult physical and emotional symptoms related to serious medical illness
- Decline in patient condition with multiple hospitalizations
- Prolonged hospitalization with poor prognosis
- Patient and family stress with unresolved psychological or spiritual issues
- Questions or concerns about Advance Directives

What are the benefits of Palliative Care?

The Palliative Care team works closely with all members of the health care team, including the primary care doctor. The Palliative Care team emphasizes the quality of life. Care is focused on the emotional, physical and spiritual support of the patient and family to improve quality of life.

How Do I Contact the Palliative Care Team?

During a hospitalization at Greenwich Hospital anyone can ask for a Palliative Care referral including patient, family, friend or any member of the health care team.

If you have any questions or wish to have a Palliative Care consultation, please call 1-203-863-3000 and ask the operator to page Dr. Donna Coletti.

Resource:

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. www.nhpco.org

For more Patient Fact Sheets, see the Greenwich Hospital web site at www.greenwichhospital.org and Click on Patients, click on Education, click on Patient Education Fact Sheets.