

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can receive this care?

- Anyone with a serious or potentially life-limiting illness, regardless of the stage of that illness. Non-hospice palliative care can be used early in the course of an illness, for anyone having difficulty with control of symptoms.

Can I continue to receive treatments to cure my illness?

- You may receive non-hospice palliative care and curative care at the same time.

May I receive homecare at the same time?

- Yes.

Does Medicare pay?

- Medicare will pay for a physician consult.

Does private insurance pay?

- Most insurance companies will pay for needed physician services, like a home visit, or a visit in the hospital or other place of residence.

What is included in the group of services?

- Hospice of Holland's program consists primarily of physician visits to evaluate and treat any symptoms that are hard to control. Hospice of Holland may offer additional support services and implement them as needed.

How long can I receive care?

- This will depend on each individual patient's care needs, and the coverage you have through Medicare, Medicaid or other insurance.

Where are services provided?

- Wherever the patient resides; in their home, an area facility, or the hospital.

To refer a patient for palliative care services or for more information about Hospice of Holland, please contact 616.396.2972.

www.hollandhospice.org

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Adding More Life to Every Day

Patient services are provided without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, height, weight or national origin.

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Increasing Quality of Life



Non-Hospice Palliative Care

What is Palliative Care?

To palliate, from the Latin “to cover with a cloak,” means to make a person more comfortable by treating their symptoms when it may not be possible to treat or cure their underlying cause. Symptoms may include pain, nausea, or difficulty breathing.

Since 1981, Hospice of Holland’s skilled clinical staff has provided comfort care, with great success, for people who have life-limiting illnesses. Hospice of Holland’s Non-Hospice Palliative Care program uses the same experts to provide non-hospice palliative care to people who have a serious illness, and strive to improve an individual’s quality of life.

Those individuals may be going through aggressive care such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or treatment of such illness as heart or kidney failure and are not ready for hospice care. Non-hospice palliative care can be provided at any stage of the serious illness, even from the time of the initial diagnosis. Individuals may receive palliative care and other aggressive care at the same time and patients may begin receiving the benefits of this care without having to wait until they are in the last six months of life.



Hospice of Holland’s Palliative Care Program

The Palliative Care program at Hospice of Holland is designed to improve the quality of life for those who have a life-limiting illness and are having difficulty managing symptoms.

Program goals include:

- Complex Symptom Management – helping patients and their families understand their illness and look at appropriate treatment options.
- Communication with patients and families to establish goals of care.
- Partnership with an individual’s physician to ensure patients receive the best possible care.

Patients receiving palliative care have reported decreased pain, improvement of appetite, less anxiety, and more strength and guidance to make decisions surrounding their quality of life. Hospice of Holland has offered non-hospice palliative care for five years and has made it a goal to improve the quality of life, during and after treatment of an illness, for a seriously ill person and their family.



What do we offer our Palliative Care patients?

Hospice of Holland’s Medical Director has specialized training in managing symptoms of advanced illness. Upon the request from a patient’s physician, our Medical Director will offer a physician consultation to assist in determining what course of treatment is recommended.

The consultation entails:

- Our Medical Director meeting with patients and their families in their homes, in the hospital, or in an area facility.
- Assessing the management of symptoms associated with the serious illness or its treatment.
- Discussing goals of care with patients and families.
- Helping patients understand the course of the disease or illness.
- Identifying and discussing treatment options and their implications for each patient’s individual quality of life.
- Assisting patients and their families to establish realistic expectations about the future.
- Assessing the potential value of introducing pastoral and counseling resources to help patients and families cope with the transitions they are facing.