

Palliative Care vs. Hospice Care

What is the difference?



For many individuals and families, being able to receive care in the comfort of one's own home brings great peace of mind. The Denver Hospice offers in-home palliative and hospice care throughout Metro Denver. Our clinical experts conduct patient assessments and help admit patients to the program that best fits their needs and healthcare goals.

Palliative Care

Palliative care provides comfort and support to patients with advanced illness. The goal is to improve quality of life by addressing each physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual need. Palliative care includes expert medical care, pain management and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. The comfort provided through palliative care services may begin as early as the initial diagnosis and continue alongside curative treatment.

Hospice Care

When curative treatment is no longer a goal, hospice care focuses on comfort, pain management, relief of symptoms and stresses. Hospice for anyone who has a condition that is considered terminal and the patient has a life expectancy of six months or less if their disease or condition runs its normal course.



Services

Palliative Care

- Admission team member visits the home to enroll patients.
- A nurse practitioner will visit within seven days of admission.
- A nurse practitioner will visit every month or more for symptom and medication management.
- A social worker will help with advance care planning, accessing community resource and mental health needs.
- Registered nurse support is available by phone 24/7.
- Optio Health Services offers disease-specific care programs.
- If needed, we make it easy to transfer into hospice care.
- Palliative care nurse practitioner can also serve as hospice provider.

Hospice Care

- Admission team member visits the home to enroll patients.
- Four levels of care: routine, general inpatient care, continuous care and inpatient respite.
- The Denver Hospice offers a 24-suite, state-of-the-art inpatient care center.
- Full-time employed physicians, nurse practitioners, RNs, CNAs, social workers and chaplains.
- Teams of experienced professionals available 24/7.
- Durable medical equipment, supplies and medications for symptom control.
- Over 300 volunteers providing integrative therapies: aromatherapy, Reiki, calming touch, music and pet therapy.
- Thirteen months of bereavement services: adult and children.

Eligibility

Palliative Care

- Life limiting illness – may still be pursuing treatment/aggressive interventions
- Serious disease progression
- Multiple hospitalizations/ER visits
- Declining ability to complete ADLs
- Uncertainty regarding prognosis
- Uncertainty regarding goals of care
- DNR order conflicts
- Weight loss

Hospice Care

- Prognosis/Diagnosis of 6 months or less
- Must have a life-limiting illness such as:
 - Cancer , Heart Disease, COPD, HIV/AIDS, Kidney Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, Liver Disease
- Typically, would like alignment with DNR, but not required for routine care.
- Goals of care aligned with no longer pursuing treatment/aggressive interventions. PT, OT and ST (limited – for comfort only).
- Failure to Thrive and Debility are no longer hospice diagnoses under Medicare guidelines

Care Team

Palliative Care

- Nurse Practitioner – monthly visits or more frequent if needed
- Registered Nurse – phone support
- Social Worker – scheduled as needed

Hospice Care

- Medical Director/Attending Physician
- Admissions Nurse
- Clinical Manager and RN Case Manager
- Social Worker
- Chaplain
- Certified Nurse Assistant
- Volunteer

As the leading provider of life-enhancing hospice and palliative care,
we help patients and their families get more from life.

For information
or referrals, call
303-398-6200