

What is the Palliative Care Program?

The *Center to Advance Palliative Care* defines Palliative Care as “interdisciplinary healthcare specializing in relief of suffering and achievement of best possible quality of life for patients with advanced illness, and their families. It is offered simultaneously with all other appropriate medical treatment.”

Palliative Care can help at any stage of a serious illness and at the same time as curative treatment. It is different from Hospice care where you need to have a prognosis of 6 months or less and forego curative treatment.

How does it work?

The Palliative Care Team provides assistance with:

- Pain & symptom management (shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, etc.) for patients with advanced illness
- Emotional and spiritual support for

- patients and family members
- Advance Care Planning (DNR, Healthcare Proxy, Living Wills, etc.)
- End-of-Life decision making

ALICE HYDE MEDICAL CENTER'S PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM INCLUDES:

PHYSICIANS
NURSES
CASE MANAGERS
SPIRITUAL COUNSELORS
PHARMACISTS
AHMC'S PATIENT REPRESENTATIVE

Who is appropriate for a referral?

Hospitalized patients and Alice Hyde Nursing Home residents with:

- Life threatening or life limiting illness—typically cancer, dementia,

- congestive heart failure (CHF), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), stroke or, end-stage renal or liver disease.
- Deteriorating medical conditions and in need of symptom management.
- Unacceptable level of pain, uncontrolled symptoms (nausea, vomiting), or uncontrolled psychosocial or spiritual issues.

How do I get a Palliative Care Referral?

Anyone can request a consultation (patients, family members, or any healthcare professional). Once a request is made for a consultation, your primary care provider is contacted for his/her approval.

The Palliative Care Team evaluates patients and makes the appropriate recommendations to the referring physician and provides follow-up as needed. The Team does not take over the patient care.

"We are very fortunate to have this new program at AHMC, it will be there to meet the needs of our aging population and support the medical staff."

Marie-Caroline Piche, M.D.,
Palliative Care Core Team

"Alice Hyde's Palliative Care Program has been put into place to help our patients, with life threatening or life limiting illness, to receive relief of their suffering and achieve the best possible quality of life."

Virginia Smith, R.N.,
Palliative Care Core Team

"Alice Hyde's Palliative Care Program will allow me to continue to participate in the care of the terminally ill and help achieve the unmet needs of symptom management, emotional support and respectful treatment among adults who are facing serious illness within our community."

Myrna Sanchez, M.D.,
Palliative Care Core Team

**For more information,
please contact your healthcare provider.**

AHMC'S MISSION:

"to provide quality health care with dignity and compassion to those we serve"

This publication is a product of
Alice Hyde Medical Center
Office of Communications & Media Relations
133 Park Street
Malone, New York 12953
PH: (518) 481-2430
Printed January 2007.



Alice Hyde Medical Center

an affiliate of Fletcher Allen Health Care

PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM

Advanced medicine. Compassionate care.



Palliative Care Core Team:

Myrna A. Sanchez, M.D.
Marie-Caroline Piche, MD.
Virginia Smith, RN.