

Palliative Care Team

A Consultation Service for Veterans With Life-Limiting Illness and Their Loved Ones

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is a program of active care that improves the quality of life, coping, and functional abilities of both the person who has a life-limiting disease and his/her loved ones.

The Palliative Care Team at the MVAMC believes that the person who is ill should be in charge of his/her own life's journey. We believe that all care should help that person reach his/her unique goals while honoring personal values and beliefs.

What can the Palliative Care Team do for me?

The experienced professionals of the Palliative Care Team know that when the obstacles of pain and other symptoms are removed, there are many chances to heal and grow in many areas of life even when there is a progressive physical decline.

We work with you and your current health care team to:

- Improve pain relief
- Manage symptoms
- Assist with problem-solving
- Improve communication between you, your family, and the health care team
- Clarify care preferences
- Assist with emotional and spiritual distress
- Coordinate care and referrals for community services

Can palliative care be helpful if I'm still seeking a cure for my disease?

Yes, palliative care can be most effective in improving quality of life when used early in any chronic or progressive illness.

How do I get the Palliative Care Team involved in my care?

You need a physician's order to get a consultation with the Palliative Care Team.

Talk to your doctor, nurse, or social worker about how the Palliative Care Team might help you and/or your loved one(s).

Adapted from the pamphlet ***Palliative Care Team***, VAMC, Portland, OR.

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