

Palliative Care

If you're undergoing cancer treatment, you may be experiencing numerous symptoms and side effects that negatively impact your quality of life. Palliative care can provide relief and improve your well-being.

WHAT IS PALLIATIVE CARE?

Palliative care is:

- Specialized medical care for people like you who are living with a serious, chronic illness
- An extra layer of support focused on fulfilling your physical, emotional, social, spiritual and practical needs
- Based on your needs, not your prognosis
- Able to be provided along with your curative treatment
- Appropriate regardless of your age or the stage of the cancer

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF PALLIATIVE CARE?


The goals of Mercy's palliative care team are to:

- Improve quality of life for you, your family and your caregivers
- Help match your treatment options to your care goals
- Work in partnership with your oncology team to provide relief from your symptoms, side effects and the stress you may be feeling
- Assist with advance care planning

IS PALLIATIVE CARE RIGHT FOR ME?

Palliative care may be right for you if you are suffering from pain, stress or other symptoms and side effects related to your cancer and/or cancer treatment. It can also help you manage other chronic illnesses you may be dealing with, such as heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, liver disease and dementia.

Remember that it is never too early to start palliative care.



WHO PROVIDES PALLIATIVE CARE?

Palliative care involves a team of medical and support service professionals, who may include:

- Nurses, including advanced practice nurses
- Physicians certified in palliative care
- Oncologists
- Primary care physicians
- Social workers
- Chaplains
- Dieticians
- Physical and occupational therapists

WHERE DO I RECEIVE PALLIATIVE CARE?

You can receive palliative care in a variety of settings, such as:

- The hospital
- Outpatient clinics
- At home

DOES MY HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN COVER PALLIATIVE CARE?

To find out if your health insurance plan covers palliative care, call your insurance company's customer service line (which can be found on the back of your insurance card) and ask the representative if your plan covers palliative care. Most insurance plans do cover it, including Medicare and Medicaid.

HOW DO I GET PALLIATIVE CARE?

Just tell your oncologist or oncology nurse that you would like to meet with Mercy's palliative care team.

