

Palliative & Hospice Care Common Misconceptions



Palliative Care

Misconception:

Isn't Palliative Care the same as Hospice Care?

Fact:

Although Palliative Care and Hospice Care share the same principles of comfort and support, Palliative Care begins at the onset of an advanced illness journey, whether it is curative or life-limiting.

Misconception:

I already have a primary care doctor, why do I need a Palliative Care doctor?

Fact:

Palliative Care is a medical specialty, just like Cardiology and Oncology. Palliative Care physicians work with your primary care physician and other specialists to provide complete patient care.

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Hospice Care

Misconception:

Isn't Hospice a physical place?

Fact:

Hospice Care is provided wherever an individual calls home, whether that is a single family residence, apartment building, "long-term" care or "assisted-living" facility.

Misconception:

Isn't Hospice Care only for cancer patients?

Fact:

Hospice is a medical specialty that relieves suffering and improves quality of life for individuals of any age, and at any stage, of a life-limiting illness.

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Palliative & Hospice Care

Similarities & Differences



Palliative Care

Definition

A medical specialty that **relieves symptoms** and improves quality of life for individuals of any age, at any stage in a serious illness, whether that illness is curable, chronic, or life-limiting

Timing of Care

Begins early, once the effects of an illness begin to impact quality of life

Duration

Throughout the treatment process

Care Strategies

Pain Control ■ Symptom Relief ■ Psychosocial Support

Hospice Care

Definition

A philosophy of patient-centered care that treats the person, rather than the **life-limiting diagnosis** by meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the individual and their family

Timing of Care

Begins later, once it's decided that the focus of treatment should shift from curing to caring

Duration

When physician determines that a realistic life expectancy is six months or less

Care Strategies

Pain Control ■ Symptom Relief ■ Spiritual Support ■ Psychosocial Support ■ Bereavement Support

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