

Palliative Care

(pal'e-a tiv kar) n. 1: The active total care of patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatments. Control of pain, or other symptoms, and of psychological, social and spiritual problems is paramount. The goal of palliative care is the achievement of the best possible quality of life for patients and their families.

— From the World Health Organization

How Do I Contact the Palliative Care Team?

Team members are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To make an appointment or speak to a team member, call 330-479-4805 or 1-800-628-4302.

Our Mission

The mission of Aultman Palliative Care Services is to provide comprehensive, continuing, coordinated and interdisciplinary services to patients and families who are facing life-threatening or terminal illnesses.

Our Goals

- Relieve suffering
- Improve quality of life
- Provide emotional, spiritual and psychosocial support to the patient and family
- Provide education and support to professional staff



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What is Palliative Care?

A Guide for Patients
and Families



Palliative Care

is the active total care of patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment.

Palliative Care:

- Affirms life and regards dying as a normal process
- Neither hastens nor postpones death
- Provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms
- Integrates psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care
- Offers a support system to help the family cope during the patient's illness and in their own bereavement

—World Health Organization

Palliative care treats the whole person. This care is usually offered when the focus of treatment shifts from curative treatment to comfort care.

The Palliative Care Team is available to provide care to hospitalized patients. The team includes a physician, nurse, social worker and clergy. Other staff members such as a dietitian, pharmacist or therapist are involved as needed.

Scope of Service:

- 24/7 availability
- Pain control and symptom management
- Treatment decision-making
- End-of-life decision-making
- Advance directives decision-making
- Care provision by an interdisciplinary team
- Advocacy
- Bereavement support
- Community resource referral and coordination

Why Should Our Family Consider Palliative Care?

Your health care team will often suggest a referral for assistance from the Palliative Care Team when they recognize that you are experiencing pain or other distressing symptoms. Sometimes this support is suggested when your doctor sees that the treatment you are receiving is not helping you get better. The treatment may not be preventing the progression of your illness, and yet is causing a great deal of discomfort.

You may ask your doctor about this special support and request a consultation to talk about your individual needs. Your doctor needs to write an order for this service, and he/she will continue to manage your illness. The team may make suggestions and help you decide which treatments are best for you.

*To cure sometimes
To relieve often
To comfort always*

—Sir William Osler

Palliative care is a team approach to support the patient.