

Palliative and Hospice Care: Common Misconceptions



<p><i>Misconception:</i></p> <p>Isn't Palliative Care the same as Hospice Care?</p>	<p>FACT:</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p><i>Misconception:</i></p> <p>I already have a primary care doctor, why do I need a Palliative Care doctor?</p>	<p>FACT:</p> <p>Palliative Care is a medical speciality, just like Cardiology and Oncology. Palliative Care physicians work with your primary care physician and other specialists to provide complete patient care.</p>
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<p><i>Misconception:</i></p> <p>Isn't Hospice a physical place?</p>	<p>FACT:</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p><i>Misconception:</i></p> <p>Isn't Hospice Care only for cancer patients?</p>	<p>FACT:</p> <p>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.</p>
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Palliative and Hospice Care: Similarities and Differences



DEFINITION	<p>A medical speciality 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</p>	<p>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</p>
TIMING OF CARE	<p>Begins early, once the effects of an illness begin to impact quality of life</p>	<p>Begins later, once it's decided that the focus of treatment should shift from curing to caring</p>
DURATION	<p>Throughout the treatment process</p>	<p>When physician determines that a realistic life expectancy is six months or less</p>
CARE STRATEGIES	<p>Pain Control Symptom Relief Psychosocial Support</p>	<p>Pain Control Symptom Relief Spiritual Support Psychosocial Support Bereavement Support</p>

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