

## Palliative Care

### What Does a Provider Need to Know

<p><b>What is Palliative Care?</b></p>	<p>Palliative care, also known as palliative medicine, is specialized medical care for people living with serious illnesses. It is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness—whatever the diagnosis. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness. It can be provided together with curative treatment.</p>
<p><b>Who provides Palliative Care?</b></p>	<p>Specialist palliative care teams (e.g., physicians, nurses, social workers, and chaplains) that provide expert consultation and/or co-management. While palliative care is a medical subspecialty, the principles and many of the practices of palliative care can - and should - be employed by all clinicians that work with seriously ill patients.</p> <p>Providers in your county include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals in Lafayette County that Provide Palliative Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Agencies that Provide In-Home Palliative Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agrace PalliaHealth</li> <li>○ Hospice of Dubuque</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>What are the goals of Palliative Care?</b></p>	<p>The goal is to control symptoms and side effects so patient specific goals of care while also addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregiver support</li> <li>• Social support (e.g., transportation, housing, food)</li> <li>• Spiritual support</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who is appropriate for Palliative Care?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in serious illness, unlike Hospice (i.e., certified prognosis of six or less months)</li> <li>• Based on patient and family need, not prognosis</li> <li>• Can be provided concurrent with disease treatment, unlike Hospice (i.e., forego “curative”care)</li> <li>• If you would not be surprised if the patient expired within the year, they are appropriate for palliative care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who would benefit the most from Palliative Care?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more serious medical illnesses or multimorbidity</li> <li>• Functional and/or cognitive impairment</li> <li>• Frailty</li> <li>• Frequent hospitalizations or Emergency Service visits</li> <li>• Family caregiver exhaustion</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who pays for Palliative Care?</b></p>	<p>Fee-for-service provider billing under Medicare Part B, and/or contracts with payers using a range of payment models.</p>