

Palliative medicine includes:

- Inpatient and outpatient care
- Treatment to relieve symptoms such as pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, anxiety, depression, digestive issues, insomnia, and additional side-effects of the condition/medication
- Collaboration with other healthcare providers regarding treatment
- Education on the patient's illness and choices for care
- Access to and coordination of various healthcare services
- Counseling on treatment options, advance directives, and end-of-life care decisions



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Palliative Medicine





What is Palliative Medicine?

Palliative medicine is a medical specialty focused on controlling and relieving the symptoms and stress associated with a serious or lifethreatening illness. It complements a patient's medical treatment plan, adding a level of support to maximize comfort and quality of life.

This supportive care is available at any point in an illness and can assist patients, loved ones, and health caregivers with treatment options, access and coordination of healthcare services, and education to better understand the physical and psychological challenges of a life-limiting condition.

Palliative Medicine vs Hospice

Palliative medicine is supportive care offered in conjunction with the treatment of a serious illness to provide comprehensive holistic care. It is available at any time during an illness, and can be utilized as needed or throughout the duration of a patient's treatment. Palliative care is provided on both an inpatient and outpatient basis, and involves a team approach consisting of physicians, advanced practitioners, spiritual care, rehabilitation services, case management, and other providers as needed.

Hospice care is provided to patients with a terminal illness with a life expectancy of six months or less, and who are no longer receiving disease-directed treatment of their medical condition. Ideally, patients can be receiving comprehensive palliative care up until they are eligible for hospice enrollment and continue to be followed for assistance with symptom management and support after they begin hospice services. Hospice services are usually provided in the home, but can be carried out in nursing homes or inpatient hospice units.



Our Expert

Kathryn Giorgini, DO, is dual board certified in Internal Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Giorgini works closely with patients and their families and physicians to provide comprehensive palliative care.