

Providing a Circle of Care

Who pays for this service?

Visits from the doctor and advanced practice nurse can be billed directly to most private and government insurance plans. Other services are billed on a fee-for-service basis, with sliding-scale fees based on finances.

Where is Palliative Care delivered?

Horizon sees palliative care patients throughout the Chicago metropolitan area in their homes, in nursing homes, and at some community hospitals.

How can I obtain Palliative Care?

Call Horizon's Admissions Coordinator at 312.733.8900 or toll-free at 866.733.6028.

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Palliative Care Program

Call Horizon's Admissions Coordinator at 312.733.8900 for consultations and referrals.

Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care

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Palliative Care Program



Horizon Hospice
& Palliative Care

Palliative Care Program

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Chicago's first hospice, Horizon was established in 1978 to comfort the dying and to preserve dignity at the end of life.

Horizon delivers high quality, patient-centered hospice care, as well as professional education programs in palliative medicine. The Palliative Care Program offers a multidimensional approach to relieving the suffering associated with chronic, debilitating or life-threatening illnesses.

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care ensures the best possible quality of life for seriously ill patients by relieving their physical, emotional and spiritual pain when a cure is not likely.

Is this the same as hospice?

No. Palliative care patients may have a life-expectancy of greater than six months — and they may continue to receive chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or other aggressive, curative treatments for their disease. If the patient or family is not open to discussing death and dying issues, their wishes will be respected.

When is Palliative Care helpful?

When a patient is diagnosed with a life-limiting or chronic illness and needs symptom management. Common diagnoses are metastatic cancer, heart disease, advanced emphysema, liver failure, renal failure, stroke, advanced dementia, ALS, failure to thrive. Typical problems resolved by palliative care include:

- Prolonged intensive care stays.
- Physical symptoms that are difficult to manage, such as pain, shortness of breath and nausea.
- Emotional problems like depression and anxiety.
- Ethical dilemmas about treatments such as withdrawal of aggressive medical support or feeding tubes.
- Patient, family and caregiver issues involving coping, decision making, post-hospital care and bereavement.

Who are the members of the Palliative Care Team?

The core team consists of physicians, advanced practice nurses and licensed clinical social workers who specialize in palliative care. Additional psychosocial and spiritual support is available as needed.

What assistance can the Palliative Care Team provide?

- Determining whether palliative care or hospice is appropriate.
- Facilitating communication among patients, families and medical personnel regarding treatment decisions and death and dying issues.
- Relieving physical and psychological symptoms.
- Addressing emotional, spiritual, social and practical concerns of the patient or family.
- Discussing alternatives to invasive procedures, problematic treatments and intensive care.
- Incorporating a patient's wishes into a complete treatment plan.
- Planning for future care, including hospice and home palliative care.
- Coordinating care between locations, such as hospital and home or hospital and nursing home.