

Let Us Help You

It's never too early to start palliative care. In fact, palliative care occurs at the same time as all other treatments for your illness and does not depend upon the course of your disease.

There is no reason to wait.

Palliative care planning does not have to take long or be hard. Consider these questions when planning.

- What does the person understand about their condition?
- How do they normally spend their days?
- How much has that changed over the last month?
- What are the most important goals of treatment now and in the future?



Palliative Care is...

“Customized care with creative approaches that considered not only me [the patient] but also my family, our values, culture, structure and faith. With palliative care, I felt I was in control. I felt stronger because of it, and so did my family.”

- Palliative Care Patient



KANSAS PALLIATIVE CARE

The relief you or a loved one needs when facing a serious life-limiting condition.



Kansas Palliative Care Program

785-291-3742

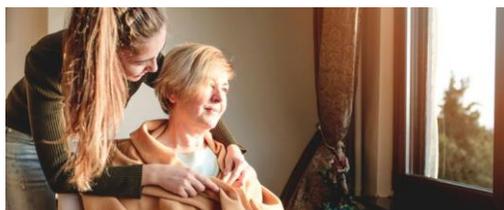
www.kdheks.gov/

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative is a special type of care offered by a multi-disciplinary team to care for the whole person — regardless of age or ability — who has a serious, life-limiting condition and their families.

These conditions include:

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Cancer
- Genetic Disorders
- Heart Conditions
- HIV/AIDS
- Kidney Disease
- Liver Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Neurological Disorders
- Parkinson's Disease
- Sickle Cell Anemia
- Stroke
- And more



You may want to consider palliative care if you or your loved one:

- Suffers from pain or other symptoms due to ANY serious illness
- Has physical or emotional pain that is NOT under control
- Needs help understanding their illness and discussing treatment

A primary goal is to reduce the symptoms and stress of living with your condition. The overall goal is to improve quality of life, that means helping the patient live their life to the fullest they are able.

Palliative care is also known as comfort care, supportive care or symptom management.



Your Multi-Disciplinary Team

Palliative care is provided by a team of professionals, including medical and nursing specialists, social workers, pharmacists, nutritionists, religious or spiritual advisors and others.

This team works together to offer:

- Patients and their families with tools to manage pain, symptoms and stress
- An extra layer of support to families and patients
- A partnership between patient and family with other medical specialists
- The best possible quality of life for patients and their families

Palliative Care in Kansas

The availability of palliative care in Kansas varies by community. Hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing facilities and even a patient's home can be locations to receive palliative care.

If you think you or your loved one need palliative care, ask for it now. Tell your health care provider that you'd like to add palliative care to your treatment.

Four Common Myths

Myth: Pain and suffering is part of a serious illness or dying.

Truth: Serious illness and death should not be painful. There are many ways to reduce pain and suffering.

Myth: Palliative care is expensive.

Truth: Insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurers will cover appointments with related co-payments and deductibles. Call your insurance company to see what they cover.

Myth: Palliative care and Hospice are the same type of care.

Truth: Both types of care focus on improving quality of life of patient and family through symptom and supportive care. Hospice care is at the end-stage of an illness. Palliative care is available at any stage of a disease.

Myth: The hospital is the only place to get palliative care.

Truth: Palliative care is available in the location that best meets the needs of the individual. Familiar places include home, assisted living facility or long-term care.