



# Palliative care

Specialized medical care focused on providing relief from the symptoms, pain and stress of a serious illness - whatever the diagnosis.

**We support doing what's right for you.**

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## Four Common Myths about Palliative Care:

**Myth:** To qualify for Palliative Care, a patient must have a terminal illness.

**Reality:** Palliative Care is appropriate for patients at ANY stage of a serious illness, optimally at the time when the diagnosis is made.

**Myth:** Patients must give up all curative treatments to receive Palliative Care.

**Reality:** Palliative Care is given alongside curative treatments. For example, a patient may continue to receive chemotherapy or radiation while receiving Palliative Care.

**Myth:** Palliative Care is synonymous with hospice care.

**Reality:** Unlike Hospice Care, patients receiving Palliative Care do not have to accept comfort care as the primary goal of treatment or have a prognosis of 6 months or less. Palliative Care patients do not have to forgo curative treatment of their underlying disease or hospitalization for the disease.

**Myth:** If a patient chooses Palliative Care, they are giving up.

**Reality:** Palliative Care has not only been shown to improve quality of life, decrease the use of aggressive treatments at the end of life and reduce depression, but it has also been shown to prolong life for patients with advanced lung cancer. (National Cancer Institute, 2010)

Diagnostic Group's Palliative Care Program has PC specialists who approach each patient with creativity and empathy. We will meet with you and your family to understand your treatment goals and develop a plan to help you better manage your physical, emotional and spiritual concerns. Our emphasis is on pain and symptom management, improved communication, coordination of care and to provide an extra layer of support.

### Meeting the Needs of Patient & Family

- Patient seen within 24 hours of referral
- Plan of care developed in collaboration with patient & family
- 24 hour per day team availability
- Continuity & coordination of care from hospital to home or where you live
- Medicare/Medicaid/ Commercial Insurance accepted

