

Who Provides Palliative Care?

A caregiving group of family, friends, and health care providers and volunteers makes up the Palliative Care Team. The team is determined by the needs of the person that is ill and his/her family. It can include a:

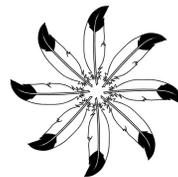
- Family doctor or a doctor specializing in palliative care
- Nurse
- Community Health Representative
- Social Worker or Community Wellness Worker
- Spiritual Counsellor/Traditional Healer
- Personal Support Worker/Home Support Worker
- Community-based health provider
- Pharmacist, nutritionist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, volunteers and anyone who can meet the ill person's needs

Where Can I Find More Information?

For more information, start by talking to your doctor, nurse, Home and Community Care Coordinator, spiritual care provider or any other health care provider. A referral to a palliative care nurse or palliative care volunteer team can be made by anyone, including the person that is ill, a family member, a spiritual care provider, a physician or any other health care provider.

You may also refer to the ***Preparing for the Journey: Caring for Indigenous People who are Seriously Ill*** resource manual available for free download on the CERAH website: <https://cerah.lakeheadu.ca/resources/indigenous-health/>

This brochure was originally created by: Improving End-of-Life Care in First Nations Communities (EOLFN). Additional resources available on the project website: eolfn.lakeheadu.ca



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What is Palliative Care?



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Palliative Care is a special type of healthcare that provides care, comfort and support to individuals and families who are living with a life threatening illness.

- It is for people of all ages
- Its focus is on the person and not the disease
- It is about improving the quality of life at a time when the goal is not to cure

Palliative care involves a wide range of services that can be personalized to meet the needs of the person living with a serious illness and their family. These services may vary from place to place, but generally, include:

Pain and symptom management

Family doctors or doctors who specialize in palliative care can help with pain and symptoms such as nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, constipation, shortness of breath, fatigue, difficulty sleeping, etc.

Home visits by a nurse may also be available.

Social and emotional support

Support can be made available to help deal with feelings, such as fear and grief or concerns about the illness.

Spiritual support

Arrangements for spiritual support can be made whether the person is at home, in hospital, or in long-term care facility.

Caregiver support (including family and community care providers)

Support and advice can be provided to family caregivers, as well as community-based care providers on making the person that is ill feel more comfortable.

Volunteer support

Volunteers may be available to provide support services such as companionship, provide relief for the caregiver and offer transportation.

Bereavement support

Grief support is available to help the family work through emotions and grief regarding the illness and death of a loved one.

Links to resources

Other programs may be available to the person receiving palliative care depending on what services are present in your area. For example, home care provides a variety of services to help take care of the family and home; 'Meals on Wheels' programs provide nutritious meals that can be delivered right to the home.

Where is Palliative Care Provided?

Palliative care may be provided in a variety of settings:

Home

Home is where most people prefer to live when they have a terminal illness. Home provides a comfortable, private, informal setting that is familiar for the person who is ill, and allows the caregivers, family members and friends to visit as often as they like.

Hospitals

Hospitals may provide a sense of security to the person requiring palliative care as they are able to provide direct access to doctors, nurses and other health care providers. Some hospitals may even have a palliative care unit.

Long-term care facilities

Long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, may be used for short periods of time to help control pain and symptoms or to provide respite to the caregiver.

