

# Palliative Care Consult Service

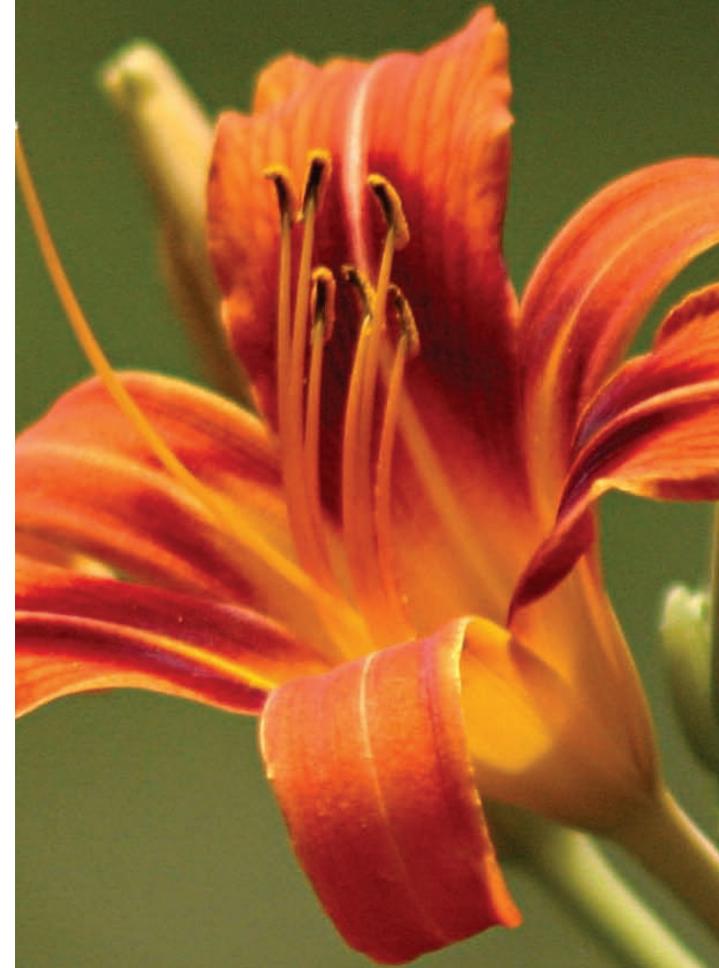
## Referral Process

- Referring clinician writes an order for a Palliative Care Consult including the reason for the consult.
- Once the order is written, the Nurse Practitioner will be notified.
- The Nurse Practitioner will meet with patient and family.
- The Nurse Practitioner will confer with the referring clinician.

*Ask your clinician to request a palliative care consult or for more information, please contact,*

Old  
Colony  
Hospice 

One Credit Union Way  
Randolph, MA 02368  
781-341-4145  
[www.oldcolonyhospice.org](http://www.oldcolonyhospice.org)



## What is Palliative Care?

Palliative Care is designed to provide emotional, spiritual and physical symptom management for patients and their families facing chronic, progressive or complex illnesses. The goal of palliative care is to improve quality of life through management of troubling symptoms.

Palliative Care is provided at any stage of an illness and can be provided simultaneously with curative treatment.

In many cases, it is transitioning from one setting to another that contributes to poor outcomes with multiple re-hospitalizations. Palliative care can support patients by addressing these issues and determining patient care goals.

Many patients benefit from palliative care including:

- ☞ those who have been diagnosed with a complex, serious illness who desire relief from pain or symptoms associated with the disease.
- ☞ those who need to make difficult decisions about how to proceed with care and treatment.
- ☞ those who need assistance with communication issues related to care and treatment.

## Who can benefit from Palliative Care?

Patients who:

- ☞ Have chronic, progressive or complex medical condition(s).
- ☞ Have pain or troubling symptoms that are not well controlled.
- ☞ Have difficulty managing the complexity of their medical problems.
- ☞ Have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and need support with decision-making and treatment goals.
- ☞ Are experiencing psychosocial, spiritual or caregiver distress.
- ☞ Have experienced multiple visits to the emergency room or re-admissions to the hospital in the past six months for the same issues.
- ☞ Would like to discuss alternatives to continuing treatment.
- ☞ Would like to discuss Advance Care Planning options such as Health Care Proxy, Living Will, etc.

## How can Palliative Care benefit me?

Palliative care can help you in many ways:

- ☞ Help improve your quality of life by managing troubling symptoms such as pain, nausea or difficulty breathing.
- ☞ Ease the concerns and distress you may be feeling.
- ☞ Work with social workers to provide you with support and to coordinate community resources.
- ☞ Assist case managers, nurses and physicians in coordinating your care.
- ☞ Work with chaplains to assist with your spiritual needs and concerns.
- ☞ Assist you and your family to make important decisions about end of life issues such as: life support, artificial nutrition and do not resuscitate orders.
- ☞ Assist with advance planning such as Health Care Proxy forms.

