



Palliative Care

Hospital Service

What is this service?

The Palliative Care Service is a team made up of a doctor, nurse, chaplain and social worker; all who are experienced in relieving the physical, emotional and spiritual suffering of patients. The patients they take care of have life-limiting illnesses such as heart failure, lung disease, kidney failure or cancer and have symptoms like pain, difficulty breathing, anxiety, nausea, loss of appetite and weakness.

In addition to relieving suffering, what else does this team do?

The Palliative Care Team is also trained to help the patient and family understand the care decisions they may need to make soon or in the future. These decisions may be about further medical treatments and care after hospitalization. The team, with the help of the hospital's ethics committee if needed, can help patients and families weigh the benefits against the burdens of certain medical treatment options.

How does using the Palliative Care Service affect the hospital care that the patient's usual doctor provides?

After the Palliative Care Team meets with the patient and family to discuss the patient's options and wishes for care, this information is passed on to the patient's doctor. Together, the Palliative Care Team and patient's doctor decide how to best meet the needs of the patient and family going forward.

How can I get a referral to the Palliative Care Service?

You can tell your nurse or doctor that you would like an order for a Palliative Care Team consultation. After the Palliative Care Team receives the order for the consultation, you should expect to see a member of the team in about 24-48 hours depending on your needs.

osfsupportivecare.org



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For more information:

OSF will serve all persons facing chronic and/or terminal illness with the greatest dignity and respect by providing supportive care services in a coordinated, timely and compassionate manner in a community of caregivers committed to quality, safety, and the value of life based on our Catholic traditions and ethics.

-OSF Supportive Care Vision Statement, 2006