

## Palliative Care and Hospice

### Program includes:

- An interdisciplinary team specializing in Palliative Care
- Consultation service
- Inpatient hospice care
- Inpatient hospice respite care
- Home hospice support
- Coordination with community services
- Recreation therapy
- Rehabilitation services
- Alternative therapies
- Volunteer program
- Grief and bereavement support

### Contact Us:

**Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital  
Palliative Care and Hospice  
708-202-8387  
Ext. 22408  
[www.hines.va.gov/services/](http://www.hines.va.gov/services/)**

Developed by the Palliative Care Team; approved by the Veterans Health Education Committee, July 2011. Art donated by Elisha Dasenbrock, Fine Artist.

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

## PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE



### Mission:

**To honor the care choices  
of Veterans who have  
life-limiting illness.**



## Palliative Care:

Palliative Care aims to achieve the best possible quality of life for individuals with serious illnesses. We do this by:

- Relieving physical symptoms of illness, such as pain.
- Addressing the social, emotional and spiritual needs of Veterans and their families.
- Assisting with advance care planning.

Palliative Care is appropriate at any point in an illness. It can be provided at the same time as curative treatment.

## Hospice:

Hospice is a type of Palliative Care. It is for the final months of life. It should be considered when curative treatments are no longer effective, or no longer desired.

- Hospice support can be provided at home or in an inpatient setting.
- The center of care is the Veteran and his or her family.
- Physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs are addressed by an Interdisciplinary Team.

## Interdisciplinary Team Members:

Hospice Coordinator  
Physician  
Nurse Practitioner  
Pharmacist  
Dietitian  
Social Worker  
Chaplain  
Psychologist  
Restorative Therapists  
Recreation Therapist  
Clinical Nurse Manager  
Registered Nurses  
Health Care Technicians  
Volunteers

Many members of the Interdisciplinary Team have special Certification in Palliative Care and Hospice.



## Goals:

- To provide the best quality of life, by focusing on pain control and symptom management.
- To address the unique emotional, social, and spiritual needs of each Veteran and his or her family.

## When should I contact the Palliative Care Team?

- When life-limiting illness is causing pain or other symptoms that are affecting your quality of life.
- When you want to plan ahead for changes that will happen if the disease gets worse.
- When more help is needed at home.
- When you want to understand your options for end-of-life care.
- When you want some help explaining your wishes to your family.
- When you want some help putting your wishes in writing.
- When you are a caregiver overwhelmed by the needs of your loved one who has a life-limiting illness.
- When hospice care is needed.

## Who can contact the Palliative Care Team?

- Your Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Social Worker can refer you to the Palliative Care Team.
- You can contact us directly at 708-202-2408.