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/

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

Developed by the Palliative Care Team; approved by the Veterans Health Education Committee, July 2011. Art donated by Elisha Dasenbrock, Fine Artist.
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: Many members of the Interdisciplinary Team have special Certification in Palliative Care and Hospice.

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

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.