Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses; this type of care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness – whatever the diagnosis. Palliative care is designed to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and it can be provided together with curative treatment. Moreover, assistance managing a serious illness may be necessary for cancer, congestive heart failure, kidney failure, lung disease, liver failure, dementia, or any illness at a turning point where treatment is no longer working, but Hospice admission is not yet appropriate.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Who is eligible for palliative care?</th>
<th>Patients with serious illness who need more extensive relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of that illness; palliative care can be provided in addition to curative treatment. Patients can be of any age or diagnosis.</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| How do I refer a patient to the Palliative Care Program? | PHS providers can refer a patient to palliative care with one of two referral orders in Epic:  
- **(Clinic or Home) AMB REFERRAL TO PALLIATIVE MEDICINE [REF137]**  
- **(Inpatient) IP CONSULT TO PALLIATIVE CARE [CON27]**  
- [Epic Tip Sheet: Palliative Medicine Referrals and Consults](#)  
Providers who do not have access to Epic can refer a patient to palliative care by calling Home and Transition Services at 559-1000. |
| What role do I play in my patient’s palliative care? | As part of the patient’s care team, you will be informed of the patients palliative care plan and progress and invited by the team to participate in any aspects of the palliative care you choose. If your patient is being seen by the Palliative home team, the nurses will contact you to ask for your orders and advice. All care documentation will be made available to the patient’s primary care physician, either through Epic for PMG providers or by fax. |
| Who can I contact for more information? | Inpatient Palliative Care team  
(505) 252-7393  
Outpatient Palliative Care team  
(505) 923-8001 |

Want More Information?

- [Clinical Program Abstract: Palliative Care](#) (PEL - PHS network login required)
- [Website: PHS Palliative Care](#)