

Palliative Care Pathway

This pathway exists to guide the palliative care team members in systematically addressing all the potential issues related to the palliative needs of patients and their families, while keeping in mind that each patient care experience is individual and unique.

Palliative Care Interventions	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6	Visit 7	Visit 8	Visit 9
Introduction to palliative care and services available	X								
Medical History and Physical assessment; ongoing as needed.	X								
Obtain basic social and spiritual history; engage spiritual care provider as needed.	X								
Pain and symptom management; every visit if applicable	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Medication review and record; update as needed	X								
Assess patient/family understanding of illness and educate regarding disease state and progression.	X			X			X		
Identify stage of illness and focus of treatment; re-evaluate as illness progresses	X	X							
Identify Patient and family goals; re-evaluate each visit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Define quality of life in patient's words	X	X							
Determine patient's decision making abilities and coping strategies	X	X							
Support the primary care person/caregiver/family members; include in care planning and update as needed.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clarify code status; re-evaluate as illness progresses	X	X	X						
Clarify Health care power of attorney	X	X	X						
Clarification/completion of health care directive		X	X	X					
Identification of cultural needs related to health care experience and adapt plan of care accordingly.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Legal issues– power of attorney, etc.; engage social service provider as needed.				X	X	X			
Financial issues– medication reimbursement, etc.; engage social service provider as needed.				X	X	X			
Social issues– communication, alternative living situation, counseling, bereavement etc.; engage social service provider as needed				X	X	X			
Emotional/spiritual– assess patient/caregiver-level of emotional suffering. Identify factors that contribute to stress; engage spiritual care as needed.					X	X	X	X	X

