

Palliative Care is not the same as Hospice Care.

Hospice care is meant for people in the final months of life. Palliative care is available to you at any time during your illness while you are in the hospital. Unlike hospice, you can also receive palliative care at the same time as curative treatments.

How will Palliative Care benefit the patient and family?

Palliative Care helps patients and those who care for them by:

- Providing pain and symptom support
- Assisting patients and families in understanding the patient's condition and options for care
- Communicating between patient, family and doctors in order to ensure that patient needs are fully met, these include establishing goals for care, aid in decision-making and seamless care coordination
- Offering a comfortable and supportive atmosphere to relieve stress and anxiety
- Helps patients and families who wish to address issues of life completion and life closure

How does one start getting palliative care?

The patient should let their wishes be known to family, friends and caregivers. Talk to your primary care physician or nurse about palliative care.

For information, call **814-534-1800**.

Conemaugh Memorial
Medical Center

Palliative Care



EXCELLENCE. EVERY PATIENT. EVERY TIME.

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Making a difference!

Palliative Care specializes in the relief of the pain, symptoms and stress of serious illness. The goal is to prevent and ease suffering and to offer patients and their families the best possible quality of life.

Illnesses may include cancer, cardiac disease, respiratory disease, kidney disease, advanced dementia, AIDS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and multiple sclerosis.

Care is available at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center's, Palliative Care Unit on the Fourth Floor of Good Samaritan and as a consultative service to departments throughout the hospital.

Our palliative care team includes physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, pastoral care and social workers. Together with your own doctor, you receive:

- Expert treatment of pain and symptoms
- Close communication about your illness and treatment choices
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Inpatient and outpatient care
- Referral and coordination of home care
- 24-hour support

Begin Palliative Care early.

Palliative care can occur at the same time as all other treatments for your illness. It does not depend upon your prognosis so there is absolutely no reason to wait. Pain and other symptoms affect your quality of life, and the stress can have a big impact on your family. The palliative care team can help.

