



PATIENT / FAMILY TEACHING SHEETS

HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

What is Hospice and Palliative Care?

- Hospice and palliative care addresses the needs of patients and their families who face illnesses that cannot be cured.
- Hospice and palliative care respect the patient's goals, preferences and choices.
- The whole person is cared for including physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs.
- The family is supported as well.
- Family is considered to be whoever the patient says they are.

What is the Hospice/Palliative care team?

- Hospice and palliative care is given by a team of people knowledgeable in end-of-life care.
- The team is made up of many members including but not limited to: nurses, nursing assistants, clergy and spiritual counselor, social workers, physicians, pharmacists and volunteers.
- Additional team members will be asked to assist with any special needs that the patient and family may have.
- The team communicates with the patient and family as well as each other to assure that the patient and families' needs are being met.

What can be done?

- The good news is that there is much you, your caregiver and the hospice/palliative care team can do for the problems that are encountered at the end of life.
- The team will always try to discover the underlying cause and discuss treatments with your healthcare team.