



Palliative Care

*It has been said that Palliative Medicine is concerned with three things—the quality of life, the value of life, and the meaning of life.**



BON SECOURS
PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES
Bon Secours Richmond Health System

BON SECOURS RICHMOND HEALTH SYSTEM is committed to excellence in Palliative Care.

Palliative Care is focused on meeting the unique needs of patients with serious and life-threatening illnesses. Specialists work with a patient's primary doctor to deliver symptom management and pain relief. The Palliative Care team can become involved at any stage of a patient's illness and treats the whole person, with attention to physical, spiritual and emotional needs. The goal of treatment is to provide quality day-to-day life.

Palliative Care team members include—

- Palliative Care Physician
- Palliative Care Nurse
- Palliative Care Social Worker
- Palliative Care Educator's Bereavement Specialist
- Chaplain
- PT, OT
- Staff Nurses
- Nutritionist
- Pharmacist
- Ethicist

Helping the Caregiver

Health care professionals can educate families about the patient's problems and provide advice on care such as giving medication and recognizing symptoms that require immediate medical attention.

Home support services may provide help with transportation, shopping, and preparing meals. Families may need help with developing a plan to manage the strains of caregiving. Creating a support network of people such as other family members, friends, and clergy can be very helpful.

Helping You, the Patient

Pain management is vital for comfort and to reduce a patient's distress. Health care professionals and families can work together to identify the sources of pain and relieve them with drugs and other therapies.

Symptom management involves treating symptoms other than pain such as nausea, weakness, bowel and bladder problems, mental confusion, fatigue, and difficulty breathing.

Emotional and spiritual support is vital for both the patient and family in dealing with the stresses of critical illness.

We are dedicated to excellence in caring for all patients, regardless of age, who may be suffering from chronic illnesses including—

- dementia
- heart disease
- cancer
- kidney disease
- lung disease
- liver disease

Goals of Intervention

Many patients need Palliative Care. People are living longer with many advanced, chronic illnesses and need relief of their pain and symptoms so they can enjoy a good quality of life for as long as possible. Because their medical care is complex, these patients also need help coordinating their care.**

Palliative Care works. Palliative Care programs have been shown to provide the best possible care for serious illness, effectively relieve pain and distressing symptoms, increase patient and family satisfaction with their care, and make transitions between hospitals and other health care settings easier.**

*Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine, 2004

**Center to Advance Palliative Care

Referral Process

For referral information, call 627-5291.

Our Mission at Bon Secours

Our mission is to provide compassionate, quality healthcare services to those in need, especially the poor and dying, for the purpose of alleviating human suffering and bringing people to wholeness in the midst of pain and loss.

Recognizing the dignity of all persons, we provide compassionate health care services contributing to the physical, social, emotional and spiritual well being of those we serve.



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