

What is the Difference Between Palliative Care and Hospice?

Good Shepherd Palliative Care	<u>BOTH</u> Palliative Care and Hospice	Good Shepherd Community Hospice
<p><u>TREATMENT</u> May/may not be getting life-prolonging treatment</p>	<p>Take a holistic approach to care</p> <p>Are patient and family-centered</p> <p>Provide a layer of support</p> <p>Honor patient comfort, dignity and quality of life</p> <p>Increase patient choice and access to information</p> <p>Assist with advance care planning and difficult conversations</p> <p>Work with your current medical team</p>	<p><u>TREATMENT</u> No longer seeking life-prolonging options *</p>
<p><u>DIAGNOSIS</u> Serious illness or general decline in health</p>		<p><u>DIAGNOSIS</u> Life-limiting condition or condition(s)</p>
<p><u>PROGNOSIS</u> No limit on life expectancy</p>		<p><u>PROGNOSIS</u> Life expectancy of 6 months or less **</p>
<p><u>PAYMENT</u> Covered partially or in full by Medicare B, Medicaid and most private insurers</p>		<p><u>PAYMENT</u> Covered by Medicare A, Medicaid and most private insurers</p> <p>Good Shepherd offers free care for those who qualify based on financial need</p>
<p><u>PROVIDERS</u> Doctors, nurse practitioners and/or social workers</p>	<p><u>PROVIDERS</u> Interdisciplinary team including nursing, social work, home health aides, spiritual care and volunteers</p>	
<p><u>TYPE OF VISIT</u> Palliative care consult(s)</p>	<p><u>TYPE OF VISIT</u> Interdisciplinary team care</p>	

* Some insurance providers allow for life-prolonging treatment at the same time as hospice

** Some insurance providers allow > 6 month life expectancy

Good Shepherd Palliative Care

Consider a referral for a Palliative Care Consult if your patient has any of the following:

- One or more serious illnesses
- A change in condition or overall declining health
- Rapid disease progression
- Functional decline
- Frequent hospitalizations/readmissions
- Symptom management needs
- Limited psychosocial support
- A new diagnosis
- A need for goals of care or advanced care planning discussions

Please call our Referral Line at (617) 969-6130 to schedule a palliative care consult or if you have any questions.