

Palliative Care and Hospice

This brochure will help you learn more about special kinds of supportive care called Palliative Care and Hospice.

We encourage you to think about your wishes and goals and to discuss them with your loved ones. Making decisions in advance will help ensure that your preferences are known to your family and health care providers.

Advance care planning includes decisions about:

- Advance directives that explain your preferences for medical treatments
- CPR directives (resuscitation and respiratory support)
- Power of attorney for health care decisions
- Physician's Order for Life Sustaining Treatment form (Utah resident)
- Memorial/burial planning services



What is Palliative Care?

Palliative Care is aimed at enhancing quality of life for patients with serious illness and their families. It is an interdisciplinary team approach to expert pain and symptom management and emotional and spiritual support tailored to individual needs and wishes. Palliative Care can be a complement to conventional, disease-modifying medical therapies or it can be an alternative when such treatments are no longer effective or desired by the patient.

You may find Palliative Care beneficial if you have a serious or chronic illness especially in the advanced stage. Examples of these may include advanced lung, kidney, liver, heart, neuromuscular disease, Alzheimer's, dementia, or cancer.

Programs that offer Palliative Care:

- Palliative Care Consultation in the in-patient hospital or outpatient clinics
- Home Hospice and Home Palliative Care
- Community inpatient care in a Nursing Home with Hospice visits or a Community Hospice Care Center

What is Hospice?

Hospice is the most intensive form of Palliative Care applied when death is expected. It is provided to seriously ill patients who generally have less than 6 months to live and who have agreed to enroll in hospice services. Hospice focuses on comfort for patients and bereavement services for loved ones.

The Veterans Health Administration and the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System are committed to providing our veterans with the best possible care.

Eligibility

Services are available for veterans who are enrolled in the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System. A social worker may be able to help with eligibility.



These services are available depending on your needs and the individual programs providing them:

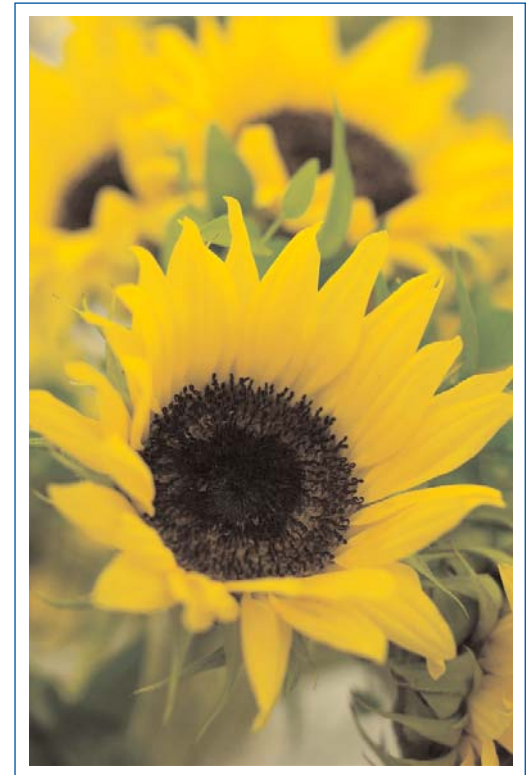
- Medical Care
- Pharmacy Support
- Symptom Management
(pain, breathlessness, anxiety, nausea)
- Nursing Care
- Social Services
- Religious and Spiritual Support
- Physical, Occupational, Speech
Therapy
- Home Equipment
- Nutritional Guidance
- Mental Health Support
(both individual and group)
- Counseling
- Volunteer Services
- Complementary Therapy
(Integrative Health)

If Palliative Care and Hospice are things you want to learn more about, you may contact your health care providers.

Notes:



PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE



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