

From families who have touched us and allowed us to touch their lives:

“When I heard the words ‘Hospice and Palliative Care,’ it scared me. After meeting the team, I realized that I was lucky to have someone that gently explained what was happening and let me make my own choices. In the end, they saved my son’s life.”

“There must be other children like my son who have chronic, or long term illnesses that live ‘on the edge’ of becoming either healthy or seriously ill at any given time. Most parents and children do not want to admit or won’t allow themselves the reality to realize that many things can happen. Talking about these options and making plans for some of those situations is important, and can alleviate some anxiety for both the child and the parent. Someone has to be a catalyst in this situation to initiate and facilitate the conversation, even though at the time neither one of us wanted to be having the conversation.”

“Palliative care makes everything go smoother. I love the visits to the house to check on patients.”

“We were overwhelmed by the kindness when we received the card on what would have been our son’s first birthday. You helped us tremendously during the hardest time of our lives.”



Children’s Hospital of Michigan
Pediatric Palliative Care Program is
supported in part by donations.

For information about how you can
contribute, please call (313) 964-6994.

For referrals or information
please call (313) 745-0883
or you may e-mail us at
chmpalliativecare@dmc.org.


**Children’s Hospital
of Michigan**

Just for them.

COMPETENT • CONSISTENT • CARING



Pediatric Palliative Care Program

Our mission is to provide compassionate,
comprehensive and consistent care to children
living with serious illnesses and their families.


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WHERE ALL WE KNOW...

Palliative Care

Palliative Care (pronounced pal-lee-uh-tiv) offers active support for patients and their families who are faced with a life-threatening diagnosis.

Palliative Care is appropriate at any time during an illness and can be provided at the same time as treatment that is aimed to cure. The goal is to enhance quality of life.

Facing a life-threatening illness is difficult, and deciding when to ask for help is hard.

Palliative Care might be right for your family if:

- your child is in the hospital more and more or is becoming harder to care for at home
- usual treatments are not working or seem to be hurting more than helping
- you are feeling overwhelmed or are having trouble coping
- the doctors have told you that your child's illness could or will lead to an early death

Care That Fits Your Needs

Different families have different needs. Palliative Care offers a wide range of flexible services to help you through the changing phases of illness.



"The goal [of palliative care] is to add life to the child's years, not simply years to the child's life."

--The American Academy of Pediatrics

AND EVERYTHING WE DO...

IS JUST FOR THEM.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who besides my child can benefit from Palliative Care?

Everyone is involved. Families are the focus of Palliative Care. We will work with you, your child, and your child's brothers and sisters. We can even work with your child's school or with other people that are important to your family.

Who provides Palliative Care?

Our team of experts includes pediatric palliative care doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, child life specialists, music therapists, physical and occupational therapists, pharmacists, and nutritionists. Others may also be involved.

Do I have to change doctors?

No. The Palliative Care Team works with your primary care doctor and the specialists involved in your child's treatment.

Does insurance cover Palliative Care?

Most insurance plans cover all or part of Palliative Care, and many of the services are free. If costs concern you, a social worker can help.

Where is Palliative Care provided?

Palliative Care is provided wherever it works best for you. We will visit your child and family in the hospital, at clinic appointments and also in the comfort of your own home.

Is Palliative Care another name for hospice?

No. Though hospice can be one part of Palliative Care, Palliative Care can begin at the time of diagnosis of a serious illness. It is not limited to end-of-life care.

How can my child begin receiving Palliative Care?

Ask for it! Find out more from your child's doctor or nurse or call (313) 745-0883. Then ask the doctor for a referral.

What should I expect from the Palliative Care Team?

- Consistent support whether you are at home or in the hospital, through good times and bad
- Expert management of pain and other sources of suffering and access to resources in the hospital and at home
- 24 hour access to a physician or nurse who knows your child and understands what your family is going through
- Clear and timely information to help you understand all that is going on with your child, and the role of each member of the medical staff
- Family meetings that help answer questions and address fears about the future
- A focus on adding meaning to your child's life through memory making and the completion of realistic goals

You can count on a team that shares and supports your family's and child's strengths, hopes, and love for life.