



HouseWorks Resource Update

Palliative Care

Palliative Care is a medical specialty

that maximizes quality of life while minimizing the difficulties of living with a serious illness. This specialty can be helpful for a newly diagnosed patient as well as an individual in the advanced stages of an illness.

Taking a holistic approach, palliative care looks beyond the disease and focuses on the day-to-day experience of the patient and their loved ones.

Palliative-care specialists provide

- Pain management
- Emotional support
- Focused discussion regarding the pros and cons of treatment decisions
- Assistance navigating the healthcare maze

Most importantly, palliative care promotes quality of life and positive thinking, even under the most difficult circumstances.

Patients should consider seeking palliative care when they are diagnosed with any of the following illnesses:

- Cancer
- Alzheimer's or other dementia
- Parkinson's Disease
- Advanced heart or kidney disease

- Lou Gehrig's Disease
- Cirrhosis
- AIDS
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Advanced age with failure to thrive

If you are interested in accessing palliative care services, please contact any of the resources below, search their online directories for a palliative care center in your area, or ask your primary care physician for a referral.

10/07

Palliative Care Resources

Mass. Commission on End of Life Care

617-624-5437 www.endoflifecommission.org

Provides a comprehensive on-line directory of end-of-life care resources in Massachusetts.

MD Can Help, P.C.

617-522-5210 www.pal-care.com

Medical specialists who collaborate with the treating doctor to provide supplemental care for recently diagnosed patients and those in advanced stages of a serious illness.

Hospice and Palliative Care Federation of MA

800-962-2973 www.hospicefed.org

Promotes palliative care in Massachusetts through education and advocacy.

Massachusetts Compassionate Care Coalition

617-964-1196 www.massccc.com

A volunteer collaborative committed to improving care for people with life-limiting illness.

National Family Caregivers Association

800-896-3650 www.nfcares.org

NFCA supports, educates, and advocates for those who are caring for a chronically ill or disabled loved one.



setting the standard in home care

One Gateway Center, Suite 902

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800-928-3393

www.house-works.com