What does palliative care do?

- Provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms (physical, psychosocial and spiritual)
- Helps to manage the stress of living with serious illness
- Integrates the emotional and spiritual aspects of patient care
- Offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible and adjust to changes in abilities
- Offers a support system to help families cope
- Uses a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families
- Helps to make a plan for end-of-life care

NVNA and Hospice provides the full continuum of care from home health, palliative, hospice and the Pat Roche Hospice Home to private pay services (NVNA WORKS) to help patients and families. As an independent non-profit, we also provide wellness and public health services through NVNA SUPPORTS in 27 South Shore communities from Milton to Plymouth.


781.659.2342

nvna.org
What is palliative care?
Palliative care is a holistic, person-centered approach that improves the quality of life and relieves the suffering of patients and families living with serious illness.
Palliative care is all about what is most important to YOU as a whole person—not just your diagnosis.

Patients who benefit from palliative care typically include those with:
- Cancer
- COPD
- ALS, Parkinson’s or Dementia
- Kidney or Liver disease
- Heart Failure
- Uncontrolled symptoms (pain, insomnia, shortness of breath, nausea, constipation, anxiety, etc.)
- Frequent hospital visits

How do I get started?
Typically, your primary care physician refers you to palliative care.
Please request NVNA and Hospice by name when you speak to your doctor. Or, call us and we will work with your healthcare provider.

Palliative Care Team
Our team works with you and your family around your Goals of Care and Advanced Care Planning.
We are experts at providing tender care. Your team might include our physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, occupational, speech and physical therapists, social workers, chaplains, dietitians, and home health aides.

Palliative Care Specialty Professional Service
Partnering with Primary Care
Our physicians and nurse practitioners work to support busy primary care practices as an extension of their team. If you are a healthcare provider and have a complex or fragile patient who might benefit from palliative care, please contact our team for a consultation.

Visit nvna.org/medical-professionals to learn more or call 781.659.2342 and ask for our intake team.

- We support our shared, complex patients with management of refractory pain, complex depression, anxiety, grief and existential distress.
- We assist our fellow healthcare providers in conflict resolution regarding goals or methods of treatment within families, between staff and families and among treatment teams.

“It could be said that the categorical imperative is to never abandon the sick. The anguish associated with conditions that bring us to the threshold of human mortality…may tempt us to step back from the patient. Yet this is where, more than anything else, we are called to show love and closeness…Let each of us give love in his or her own way—as a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother or sister, a doctor or a nurse. But give it! And even if we know that we cannot always guarantee healing or a cure, we can and must always care for the living, without ourselves shortening their life, but also without futilely resisting their death. This approach is reflected in palliative care, which is proving most important in our culture, as it opposes what makes death most terrifying and unwelcome—pain and loneliness.”

~ Pope Francis

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