



IN-PATIENT PALLIATIVE CARE

GENERAL GUIDELINES & REFERRAL CRITERIA

in determining appropriate palliative care consultations

Must be 18 years of age or older and have the **presence of a serious illness** and one or more of the following:

- » New diagnosis of life-limiting illness for symptom control, patient/family support
- » Decline in function, feeding intolerance or unintended decline in weight (failure to thrive)
- » Progressive metastatic cancer inpatients not being followed by a SoutheastHEALTH Oncologist
- » Two or more hospitalizations for the same illness within 90 days
- » Difficult to control physical or emotional symptoms
- » Patient or family psychosocial or spiritual distress
- » Patient, family or physician request for information regarding hospice appropriateness
- » Uncertainty or conflicts regarding the use of non-oral feeding/hydration in cognitively impaired, seriously ill or dying patients
- » High liter flow O2 (10L or greater) or Bipap/home ventilator
- » Two episodes aspiration pneumonia within the last 6 months
- » Team/patient/family needs help with complex decision making and determination of goals of care (examples might include: decisions regarding chemotherapy, dialysis, surgery, etc...)
- » Prolonged or failed attempt to wean ventilator
- » Multi-organ failure
- » Consideration of ventilator withdrawal and other life sustaining treatment with expected death
- » Anoxic encephalopathy
- » Coma lasting more than 2 weeks

In-patient Palliative Care is a physician consultative program designed to assist healthcare providers in determining appropriate care for patients who have a chronic illness or are continually readmitted to the hospital. These patients can still be seeking aggressive treatment for their medical condition or disease.

The Palliative Care Team will never assume the primary care of a patient. We serve in a consulting role and will not be available 24/7.

Making the Referral

- » A referral to the Palliative Care team requires a physician order.
- » Patients referred to Palliative Care must be 18 years or older.

Palliative Care Team Response to Referral

- » Palliative Care service at Southeast Hospital is available Monday -Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- » The Palliative Care team will respond to all requests for referrals/ consultations.
- » If the Palliative Care team determines that an initial assessment or continued follow up of the patient is not appropriate, the team will work with the attending physician to facilitate patient access to other resources.

Palliative Care Team Role after Initial Consultation

- » Based on the specific needs of the patient, the Palliative Care team member and the attending physician will determine next steps.
- » The role of the Palliative Care team member may be one of the following:
 - Provide advice to patient/family, staff or attending physician (e.g., no orders are written by the Palliative Care team)
 - Consulting with orders (e.g. providing pain management and symptom control; supporting the physician during family meetings)

573-331-6898

Southeast Hospital Palliative Care Team

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