

Palliative Care **VS.** Hospice Care

A Quick Reference Guide

What do palliative care and hospice have in common?

- Both are comfort care.
- The objective of both is to reduce stress and offer complex symptom relief related to a serious illness.
- Both address physical and psychosocial relief.

Palliative care is for those seeking curative treatment concurrently. Hospice care is for those with a prognosis of six months or less who are not seeking curative treatment or are no longer responding to it.

Hospice and Palliative Care, Side by Side	
What is palliative care?	What is hospice care?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It can begin at the discretion of the physician at any time, at any stage of illness, serious to end-stage.• It is supportive care with or without curative intent.• From office visits to prescription charges, it is paid for by insurance and/or self-pay. Check with your health plan for coverage.• It typically takes place in a hospital.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It begins when two physicians certify that the patient has less than six months to live if the disease follows its usual course.• It is comfort care without curative intent; patient is no longer responding to curative treatment or has elected not to further pursue such treatments.• All expenses related to the terminal diagnosis are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurance.• It is delivered wherever the patient calls home.

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