

Consultation versus Application for the WRHA Palliative Care Program

Consider <i>consultation</i> from the Palliative Care Program when:	Consider <i>application</i> to the Palliative Care Program when:
<p>A patient with a life limiting illness (even if pursuing active treatment) in any care setting requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • symptom management such as pain, dyspnea, delirium • psycho-social support/symptoms associated with end-of-life care • discussions regarding goals of care • assistance with discharge planning <p>Your team requires assistance in care planning and preparation as patients near end-of-life. This may include helping to identify and anticipate symptoms and management strategies, determine/clarify goals of care and prepare families.</p> <p>Your team requires support while providing care in challenging end of life situations.</p> <p>It is <i>preferable that the attending physician is aware of the consult</i> to the Palliative Care Program, particularly for symptom management questions which often result in medication suggestions.</p>	<p>The following criteria are all met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient has a prognosis of less than 6 months. • Patient is longer receiving aggressive treatment which requires on-going monitoring for and treatment of serious complications (such as with chemotherapy or TPN). • Patient has chosen a comfort-focused approach including a decision to decline attempted resuscitation. This means ACP – M “Medical” or ACP – C “Comfort” • Discharge home is being considered. <p>Patient has symptom issues that may necessitate transfer to a Palliative Care Unit or frequent follow-up from the Palliative Care team.</p>

To ensure that your request receives prompt attention you can access the Palliative Care Program:

1. By **telephone** from **0830 -1630 Monday to Friday** – call **(204) 237-2400**. If you are calling outside the hours listed above, you may leave a message on this voicemail; however, your request will NOT be processed until the next business day. Messages left on specific Palliative Care team member’s voicemail service, will not be responded to if the team member is not scheduled to work.
2. **By fax – (204) 237-9162**. Faxes will only be responded to during regular business hours listed above.
3. If consultation is required outside of the above hours, **physician to physician consultation** is available 24 hours a day – 7 days a week. The WRHA **Palliative Care Physician on-call** can be reached through St. Boniface Paging at: 204-237-2053