



#### Key Elements:

- Focus is on relief from the pain, symptoms, and stress of any serious or complex illness or condition.
- Available at any age and during any stage of an illness.
- Often provided alongside curative treatment.
- Not dependent on prognosis.
- Emphasis on establishing goals of care.

#### Similarities:

- Provides relief from pain and distressing symptoms.
- Provides compassionate care, comfort, and support for people and their loved ones.
- Combine physical, emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual care.
- Focus is on quality of life.

#### Differences:

- **Treatment Plan:** Medical management alongside curative treatments.
- **Eligibility:** People with serious or complex illness or condition regardless of prognosis.
- **Care focus:** Pain and symptom management; establishing goals of care, clarifying medical recommendations and realistic expectations of treatment; facilitating complex decision making.
- **Care locations:** Various hospitals and care facilities.
- **Insurance coverage:** Medicare Benefit Part B, Medicaid, and most private insurance cover palliative visits.
- **Medications:** May be paid through usual insurance; verify individual coverage.



#### Key Elements:

- Specialized type of palliative care for people with advanced illness when medical opinion is for limited life expectancy.
- Appropriate when attempts at aggressive treatment, attempting to cure disease, is no longer helpful or desired.
- Emphasis on pain, symptom management, and caregiver support.

#### Similarities:

- Provides relief from pain and distressing symptoms.
- Provides compassionate care, comfort, and support for people and their loved ones.
- Combine physical, emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual care.
- Focus is on quality of life.

#### Differences:

- **Treatment Plan:** Pain relief and comfort when burden of curative treatments outweighs the benefit.
- **Eligibility:** People with end-stage illness and life-expectancy of equal to or less than 12 months (equal to or less than 6 months for Medicare).
- **Care focus:** Pain and symptom management with interdisciplinary team (physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, hospice aides, therapists, volunteers); ongoing caregiver support; bereavement after death.
- **Care locations:** Private homes, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities; short stays when needed at our hospice house or in the hospital.
- **Insurance coverage:** Medicare Benefit Part A, Medicaid and most private insurance cover care related to hospice diagnosis.
- **Medications:** Medications related to hospice diagnosis covered under Medicare/Medicaid Hospice Benefit and private insurance.