

PALLIATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CARE... HELPING IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Living with a serious illness can create physical challenges like pain, symptoms or side effects from medication... and even emotional concerns like anxiety or depression...that can affect your quality of life.

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses, offering expert pain and symptom management to treat the whole person, at any age, and at any stage of illness.

A team of palliative medicine and supportive care experts provide highly coordinated medical care that improves quality of life while your physicians work to cure or manage your condition. Palliative care can help you gain strength, improve your ability to tolerate medical treatments and live a longer, better life.

The New England Journal of Medicine reported that patients with serious illness who accessed early palliative care support in addition to standard treatments had improved symptom control, enhanced quality of life and lived longer than similar patients who had treatments without palliative care support.

Is Palliative Care The Same As Hospice?

Palliative care helps manage pain and symptoms and improve your quality of life at any stage of illness. It can be provided in conjunction with treatments intended to cure the illness.

Hospice is for patients whose doctors have determined they likely have less than six months to live, and who want their care to focus on comfort and quality of life.

Choosing Palliative Care

Palliative Care can help patients living with serious or life-threatening illnesses, such as:

- Cancer
- Dementia
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Lung disease
- Neurological disorders like multiple sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's Disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Stroke

Paying for Palliative Care

Palliative care is a clinical consultation service that is covered by most insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid. Consultations are billed under Medicare Part B, similar to a physician's visit. Standard co-pays apply.

Anyone can request a consultation in palliative medicine and supportive care. Often, the patient's doctor makes the recommendation. A patient or family member and contact the palliative care provider directly to schedule a consultation.

Source: JourneyCare is the combined organization of Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care, JourneyCare, and Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter. The three organizations came together in 2015 to provide greater services to more patients and families across 10 counties in the Chicago area and northern Illinois. For more information, visit www.journeycare.org or call 224-770-2489.

When you have questions related to elder law, estate planning, probate, and guardianship, think of the attorneys at Dutton Casey & Mesoloras. With over 100 years of combined experience, Janna Dutton, Kathryn Casey, Helen Mesoloras, Michaela Franco, and Melissa LaPointe are here to assist you, and those you care about. In addition, Janna Dutton and Kathryn Casey are two of only a few certified elder law attorneys in Illinois.

Resources:

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization – <http://www.nhpco.org>

MedLine - National Institutes of Health – <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/palliativecare.html>

(rev. may 2017)

Chicago 312.899.0950
Suburbs 847.261.4708
contact@duttonelderlaw.com
www.duttonelderlaw.com

79 West Monroe Street | Suite 1320 | Chicago, Illinois 60603
Appointments are also available in Arlington Heights, Skokie, and Westchester, Illinois, or via video conferencing or telephone.

