



# Understanding Palliative Care & Hospice Care



HOSPICE &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  

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BUFFALO

## Hospice Criteria



- Terminal diagnosis
- Prognosis of 6 months or less
- No longer receiving curative treatments
- Physician's authorization required
- Covered in full by Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance plans

### Hospice Buffalo's Team-Approach to Care

Members of the hospice team make regular visits to assess the patient, provide care and help coordinate other services. Typically, a family member serves as the primary caregiver and, when appropriate, helps make decisions for the patient.

Call (716) 686-8000

## Palliative Care Criteria

- Serious, progressive or chronic illness with active symptoms
- Patient may still be receiving curative treatments
- Does not require a limited prognosis
- Can begin at diagnosis or any time during the disease
- Covered by some insurance plans (*eligibility determined upon referral*)

### Our Team-Approach to Palliative Care

Our team of specialists work in partnership with the patient's other doctors and healthcare providers to coordinate an ideal plan of care which is then managed in the patient's home.

Our Palliative Care programs include:

- **Home Connections** – care coordination and symptom management for adult patients. [Call \(716\) 989-2475](tel:7169892475)
- **Essential Care for Children** – pediatric-trained, healthcare professionals collaborate with the child's medical team and provide community resources, spiritual guidance, and psycho-social support for family members. Expressive Therapy for the patient and siblings is also available. [Call \(716\) 686-8006](tel:7166868006)

Anyone can call to make a referral.

### PROGRAM DIFFERENCES

CRITERIA & SERVICES	PALLIATIVE CARE	HOSPICE BUFFALO
Receiving curative treatment for serious, progressive or chronic illness with active symptoms	X	
Terminally ill with prognosis of 6 months or less		X
Physician Oversight	X	X
Nurse Visits	X	X
24/7 On-Call Nurse Support	X	X
Social Work Visits & Access to Community Resources	X	X
Home Health Aide		X
Expressive Therapies	<i>X - Essential Care for Children only</i>	X
Spiritual Care	<i>X (upon request)</i>	X
Volunteer Support	X	X
Medications*		X
Supplies		X
Medical Equipment*		X
Bereavement		X
<b>WHERE WE PROVIDE CARE:</b>		
In Private Homes	X	X
In Assisted Living & Developmentally Disabled Homes	X	X
In Nursing Homes		X
In Hospitals/Nurse Liaisons		X
Wilson Inpatient Unit**		X
Respite Care (5 days)		X

\*Related to primary diagnosis

\*\*For patients whose symptoms cannot be managed at home

## Common Goals of Both Hospice and Palliative Care

1. Provides relief from pain and symptoms to improve the quality of life.
2. Treats the whole person – physically, emotionally, and spiritually – providing a holistic approach to care.
3. Encourages patient and family participation in the plan of care.
4. Helps patients live as actively as possible.
5. Offers support to help the family and caregivers cope.

### Our Mission



To provide care, support, advocacy, and education to people impacted by serious illness and loss.

**Anyone can make a referral  
to all of our programs:**

(716) 686-8000 Hospice Buffalo

(716) 989-2475 Home Connections Palliative Care

(716) 686-8006 Essential Care for Children

**Call for a free in-home consultation to see if you  
or your loved one may benefit from our care.**

**Visit: [HospiceBuffalo.com](http://HospiceBuffalo.com)**