

# PALLIATIVE MEDICINE **VS** HOSPICE CARE

|                                                             | Palliative Medicine                                                                                                                          | Hospice Care                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Prognosis</b>                                            | Advanced illness; no life expectancy limitation.                                                                                             | Prognosis of six months or less with unlimited benefit periods.                                                              |
| <b>How is this paid for?</b>                                | Visits billed to insurance as specialty visit; coverage dependent on insurance plan.                                                         | Medicare and most other insurances will cover 100%. Financial support screenings can be done.                                |
| <b>Symptom management</b>                                   | Yes! Experts in symptom management; consult recommendations to Primary Care Physician (PCP).                                                 | Yes! Experts in pain and symptom management at the end of life.                                                              |
| <b>Home Health with this service?</b>                       | Yes! We recommend the combination of Palliative Medicine with Home Health when there is a nursing or therapy need. Insurance can cover both. | Hospice insurance benefit will not pay for both; can have one-time consults with approval. Patients can self-pay if desired. |
| <b>Bed at a skilled nursing facility with this service?</b> | Yes! Palliative Medicine can complement skilled care and continue after discharge. Insurance can cover both.                                 | Hospice insurance benefit will not pay for both. Insurance cannot bill both on the same day.                                 |
| <b>Treatments (chemo, dialysis, transfusions)</b>           | All treatments can continue; Palliative Medicine provides goals of care discussion.                                                          | Most curative treatments are not covered, but considered case-by-case; symptom management is priority.                       |
| <b>Attending provider</b>                                   | Always remains community PCP.                                                                                                                | HoP provider or community PCP.                                                                                               |
| <b>What disciplines can be provided?</b>                    | Nurse Practitioner is the primary provider, with physician oversight. Can add LCSW as needed.                                                | Nurse, Social Worker, and Spiritual Counselor, volunteer, aide, and others PRN.                                              |
| <b>DME, O2 &amp; Supplies</b>                               | Obtained through PCP with regular insurance requirements.                                                                                    | Provided and paid for by HOP.                                                                                                |
| <b>Medications</b>                                          | Obtained through insurance.                                                                                                                  | Provided by HOP and paid for if related to Terminal Diagnosis.                                                               |
| <b>Prescribing</b>                                          | Ordered by PCP (or other providers); Palliative Medicine can prescribe as requested by team.                                                 | Ordered from attending or Medical Director.                                                                                  |
| <b>How often are visits?</b>                                | Offered at least monthly and PRN                                                                                                             | At least weekly and PRN.                                                                                                     |

## COMMON SYMPTOMS & DISEASES TREATED BY PALLIATIVE MEDICINE AND HOSPICE CARE

### Common Symptoms Treated:

- Complex Pain
- Anxiety
- Dyspnea
- Fatigue
- Nausea/Vomiting
- And others

### Common Diagnoses Treated:

- ESRD
- Dementia
- Cancer
- Heart Failure
- Stroke
- COPD
- And others



HOSPICE OF THE *Piedmont*  
PALLIATIVE MEDICINE