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**Understanding Palliative Care & Hospice Care**

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| **Palliative Care** | **Hospice Care** |
| Comprehensive approach to improving quality of life for people with a progressive, serious, or life-threatening illness.  Palliative Care can be provided in the patient’s home, in some facilities or a hospital. | A specialized type of palliative care for patients suffering from incurable illness with a life expectancy of six months or less. Focused on improving the quality of life.  Hospice Care can be provided in the patient’s home, in a facility or a hospital. |
| **Criteria:**  Anyone with a life-threatening illness. Any age.  Patients may receive ongoing curative treatment. Not dependent on prognosis. | **Criteria:**  For patients no longer receiving curative treatment. Progress is six months or less. |
| **Goals**:  Relief of physical, psychosocial, spiritual pain and suffering associated with an illness. Relief of patient and family stress. | **Goals**:  Improving quality of life, maintaining dignity and relieving pain and suffering for the time the patient has left. This includes relief of family stress and suffering. |
| **Patients who benefit from Palliative Care**  Life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, cardiac disease, respiratory disease, renal failure, Alzheimer’s or other dementias, HIV/AIDS, ALS, or other neurological diseases. | **Patients who benefit from Hospice Care:**  Patients with any advanced disease where curative treatment is no longer chosen or possible. |
| **Timing:**  May be provided from diagnosis of a life-threatening illness. | **Timing**:  Usually with a prognosis of six months or less. |
| **Care Team**  Palliative and Hospice Care are both provided by a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, nurses aides, social workers, therapists (physical, occupational, speech), spiritual counselors, integrative medicine practitioners, and pharmacists. | |
| **Payment**  Palliative and Hospice Care are both covered by Medicare, Medicaid, private pay, or insurance with qualifying guidelines. | |