

Is Palliative Care Like Hospice?

- Hospice is supportive, comfort care that begins after the decision is made to stop curative, aggressive treatment. Hospice care is provided outside of the hospital either at home, in a nursing home or in a 24-hour hospice facility.
- Palliative Care offers support and decision-making assistance to patients who are currently treating their illness, whether aggressively or conservatively. Palliative Care is provided to admitted patients and their families within the hospital setting.

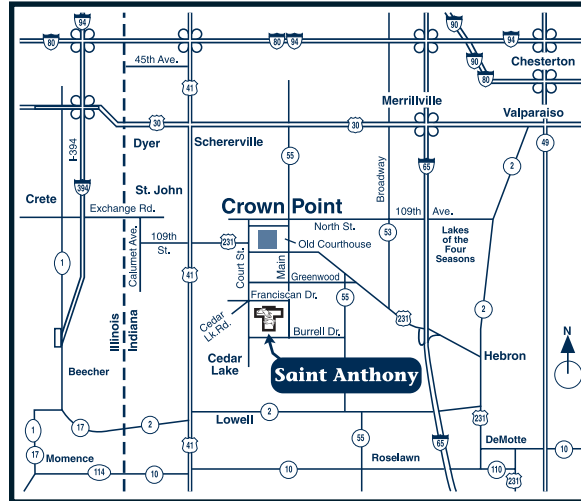
The Palliative Care Team

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**For more information
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**Palliative
Care**



Saint Anthony
Crown Point, Indiana



Palliative Care is a hospital-based service designed to help patients and families make difficult medical decisions, ensure that each patient's wishes for care are followed, and support the best possible quality of life for those coping with serious illness.

Palliative Care Can Help You

- Make decisions about current treatment, future treatment and discharge plans.
- Coordinate care and facilitate communication with physicians.
- Determine your wishes and make them known to your healthcare providers.
- Enhance your quality of life, both in and out of the hospital.
- Achieve comfort and relief of pain and other distressing symptoms.
- Have more control over your health care.
- Understand Advanced Directives and Do Not Resuscitate.
- Maintain a consistent support system within the hospital regardless of the floor or unit.

Who Can Have Palliative Care?

- Patients who are currently admitted as a Saint Anthony Medical Center inpatient and,
- have an illness that is ultimately life-limiting (*such as COPD, severe cardiac disease, cancer or dementia*) or,
- have had a serious event (*such as stroke, heart attack or respiratory failure*) that may not be recoverable or may lead to a permanently reduced quality of life.

Palliative Care Helps You Make Decisions About Care by,

- Assisting you in obtaining all of the relevant medical information you need.
- Assisting you in clarifying the medical information you've been given.
- Scheduling family meetings, when needed, at times convenient to you.
- Providing you with a list of appropriate questions you may need to ask your physicians and other health care providers.
- Helping you understand the disease process and where you are in this process.
- Helping you anticipate future decisions you may need to make.
- Taking the time to discuss your goals, wishes, and concerns and incorporate them into your hospital care.
- Making sure you understand each treatment, procedure and test that is recommended.
- Helping you see "the big picture" – how the various bits of medical information you receive fit together and what it means for you and your family.

Palliative Care is not hospice care. Palliative Care does not require you to give up current or future treatment.

Palliative Care Helps Relieve Pain and Other Distressing Symptoms by,

- Regularly assessing pain and other symptoms to determine their nature and severity.
- Attempting to identify and address barriers to effective pain and symptom control.
- Making medication and non-medication recommendations for better pain and symptom control when appropriate.

Palliative Care Assists in Coordinating Your Medical Care by,

- Speaking with physicians to gain an understanding of their treatment plan, recommendations, and overall thoughts about your care.
- Listening to your unique wishes and concerns and ensuring your physicians and other health care providers are aware of them.
- Helping the health care team focus on your specific goals for treatment and discharge.

Palliative Care is offered free of charge to patients and families.