

Serious illness can pose many challenges for you and your family: pain and other symptoms, uncertainty about goals of care, difficult choices regarding the type of treatment to receive. Palliative care focuses on supporting those who are struggling with such difficulties.

Specialists from NorthShore University HealthSystem's Palliative Care Service are available at the request of attending physicians to assist in coordinating and managing the care of hospitalized patients. This may include:

- Helping with strategies for easing pain and other symptoms.
- Promoting communication between you, your family and medical team about the goals and coordination of care.
- Participating in difficult decisions about the use of medical procedures and technology.
- Helping choose the most appropriate setting for you to receive care.

NorthShore's Palliative Care Service supports patients with any prognosis and at any stage of active treatment. While team members work closely with NorthShore's Home and Hospice Services when appropriate, palliative care can benefit those being treated at an out-patient clinic as well as those hospitalized for a more serious illness, regardless of the prognosis. Physicians of NorthShore's Palliative Care Service are board-certified in hospice and palliative medicine, and are assisted by full-time nurse practitioners with advanced training in the field. Palliative care is covered by insurance in the same way as other inpatient services. If you feel palliative care may be appropriate for you or your loved one, ask your doctor about it.

For more information about palliative care, visit: getpalliativecare.org.