The Palliative Response
When to Consider Palliative Care

Upon Admission

Palliative Care can often assist in improving symptom control for people with pain or other physical symptoms.

The Palliative Care Team approach can assist you in relieving the emotional, social, and spiritual suffering patients may experience.

Palliative Care can help you determine the eligibility of patients for supportive care services such as Palliative Care Clinic, Home Health and Home Hospice which may provide needed assistance with home services, medications and nurse case management.

Palliative Care can help facilitate patient and family conferences to define Goals of Care including Advanced Directives.

Cancer - Any patient whose cancer is metastatic or inoperable

Heart Disease
CHF symptoms at rest
EF of <20%
New dysrhythmia
Cardiac arrest, syncope or CVA
Frequent ER visits for symptoms

Pulmonary Disease
Dyspnea at rest
Signs or symptoms of right heart failure
O2 sat on O2 of <88%
P CO2 >50
Unintentional weight loss

Dementia
Inability to walk
Incontinence
Fewer than 6 intelligible words
Albumin <2.5 or decrease PO intake
Frequent ER visits

Liver Disease
PT >5 Seconds
Albumin <2.5
Refractory ascites
SBP
Jaundice
Malnutrition and muscle wasting

Renal Disease
Not a candidate for dialysis
Creatinine clearance of <15 ml/minute
Serum creatinine >6.0

Failure to Thrive
Frequent ER visits
Albumin <2.5
Unintentional weight loss
Decubitus ulcers
Homebound/bed-confined