

BC Palliative Care Benefit Program:
for coverage for selected medications
necessary for symptom control for
patients in the community.

**Please remember to fax a copy
to Health Insurance BC and to
your local Home Care Office.**

NO CPR

Completion of the Medical Orders
for Scope of Treatment (MOST) OR
the provincial “NO CPR” form are
recommended as part of a palliative
care registration in order to avoid
unwanted resuscitation attempts by
emergency personnel. Forms are
available through Document Source
and on Northern Health’s website.

Compassionate Care Benefit:
An Employment Insurance benefit
paid to people who have to be away
from work to provide care or support
to a family member who is gravely ill
and has a risk of death within 26
weeks (6 months). Get more
information at canada.ca > **Benefits**
> **Employment Insurance** >
Caregiving Benefits and Leave

**Joint Protocol for Expected/
Planned Home Deaths in BC**
outlines the roles and responsibilities
of the physician in planning for care and
natural death in the home, including
arrangements for pronouncement.
See forms and information available
at: health.gov.bc.ca.

Northern Health Service Delivery Area

More detailed information and all
necessary forms, assessment tools
and clinical guidelines may be found
on the Palliative Care OurNH site or
visit: [northernhealth.ca/forhealth-
professionals/palliative-care-endlife-
care#register-your-patient-here](http://northernhealth.ca/forhealth-professionals/palliative-care-endlife-care#register-your-patient-here).

OR

If you need any further information
have concerns or suggestions about
the NH PC program, contact:

NH PC Nurse Consultant

Regional: 250-645-3791

Physician On Call

UHNBC Switchboard: 250-565-2000

Regional PC Pharmacist

Phone: 250-645-3791

Reference:
Downing, M (2006) Medical Care of the Dying. Victoria Hospice



#HealthyNorth

northernhealth.ca

Palliative Care

A Guide for Health Care Providers



northern health
the northern way of caring

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is a type of health care for people who are living with active, progressive and life-limiting illness. Palliative care is holistic care aimed at alleviating suffering whether physical, emotional, psychosocial or spiritual. Palliative care is provided by a multidisciplinary team and may occur alongside treatments that control or manage illness. Palliative care is about promoting the best possible quality of life for patients living with a life limiting illness and their family/loved ones.

NH PC Program Registration

Patients in all care settings, who meet the criteria, should be registered with the NH PC Program, by the physician most responsible for their care. Registration is required in order to access certain PC services.

The criteria for registration are:

- The patient is living with a life limiting or progressive illness
- The patient has a life expectancy of less than six months and has indicators of declining health
- Curative treatment is not the primary focus of care, rather the focus is on supportive care and symptom management
- The patient, health care decision maker/legal representative, has agreed to accept palliative care services

The **NH PC Program Registration Form** is used to register a patient.

NH PC Program Model

Successful palliative care requires a team approach, with a well informed patient and family in the center, surrounded by the interdisciplinary primary care team. Living with a life limiting illness can be a very intense journey full of change, loss, grief and celebration of a life. The outcome of the experience for all involved, influenced by the ability to coordinate resources combined with the compassion, knowledge, and communications skills of staff, is greatly influenced by the compassion, knowledge and communication skills of staff.

NH PC Consultation Team

The PC Consultation Team provides:

- Education, information, support and program development work
- Clinical consultation for individual patients, in any care setting. **It is preferred the patient first be registered with the NH PC Program**
- Any member of the health care team may request a consult from the palliative care consultation team
- Request consultation by using the PC Request for Consultation Form or calling a member of the team

Other Services and Resources

Home Health Services: for patients at any stage of disease - nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, home support. Selected medical supplies (e.g. incontinence wear, dressings, injection/infusion supplies), equipment loan as available (e.g. hospital bed, mobility and safety aids, commodes etc.) are all provided by NH for home palliative patients. **Contact your local community nursing program for more information.**

Designated Hospice Palliative Care Beds: located in a number of residential care facilities across NH for those with a progressive life limiting illness requiring short stay admission for symptom management, caregiver respite, or care during the last days of life. **Contact Nurse Consultant for more information.**

Volunteers: are available in some communities to help patients and family caregivers. Contact your local Home and Community Care office.

Resources for Physicians

The NH Palliative Care Physician OnCall is a 24/7 service available to Physicians/NPs across Northern Health: 1-250-565-2000

BC Physician Palliative Care Consultation Line: 1-877-711-5757; 24/7 access for physicians to a palliative care physician for symptom management advice.