

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 www.canada.ca > **Benefits > Employment Insurance > Compassionate Care Benefits**

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: <http://www.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: <http://www.northernhealth.ca/Professionals/PalliativeCareEndofLifeCare.aspx>

OR

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

NH PC Nurse Consultant

Northern Interior: 250-565-7318

Northeast: 250-795-6134

Northwest: 250-631-4191

Physician On Call

UHNBC Switchboard 250-565-2000

Regional PC Pharmacist

Phone 250-649-7599

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

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Palliative Care

A Guide for Health Care Providers



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What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care (PC) is an approach to care that can be applied when supporting people who have an active, progressive and advanced disease, with little or no prospect of cure and the goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. Palliative care is aimed at alleviating suffering (physical, emotional, psychosocial or spiritual).

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.