

Frequently Asked Questions about Palliative Care

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is the Catholic response to end-of-life care. It affirms that every human life is sacred despite any illness. It is compassionate both towards individuals and their families.

Why choose palliative care?

Palliative care affirms the intrinsic value of every life, given to us by God. It neither seeks to hasten nor postpone death.

It manages pain, helping individuals navigate their symptoms while in treatment or helps alleviate physical pain until natural death.

Who provides palliative care?

Palliative care usually involves more than one person because it recognises the integrity and sacredness of the whole person – their physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and religious needs. A team approach in palliative care includes coordinating clinical care expertise and practical supports between professionals, families, volunteers and the wider community. A single medical practitioner cannot fulfil all these roles.

When should one consider palliative care?

Palliative care is flexible. It can be used during the earlier stages of an illness, with treatments aimed at a cure, or at end of life when a cure is not possible.

Where does one receive palliative care?

Adults and children can receive palliative care at the hospital, at home, in long-term care homes and hospices.

Is palliative care different from hospice?

While the terms palliative and hospice care are often used interchangeably, they are different. Palliative care is available at any stage of an illness whereas hospice care is only available at the end of life when a cure is not possible and treatment is discontinued.

Where can one learn more about palliative care?

Further information is available at www.archtoronto.org/palliativecare.

Where can one ask further questions about locating local hospice resources and services?

Call the HopeLine at 416-619-5700 - leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned as soon as possible. Please note: this service is an information line and is not an emergency or crisis line. In case of an emergency please call 911.

www.archtoronto.org/HopeLine.