

# Palliative Care vs. Hospice Care

Palliative and hospice care are both forms of comfort care provided to patients to reduce stress and offer complex symptom relief related to a serious illness. Both palliative and hospice care help to reduce hospital admissions and improve patient-family satisfaction. Palliative care differs from hospice care in that palliative care is not dependent on prognosis and can be delivered at the same time as treatments that are meant to cure. Hospice care is specifically for individuals with terminal illnesses and limited life expectancies who decide they no longer wish to pursue aggressive measures.



## Palliative Care

Palliative care is a medical specialty focused on relieving the suffering that often accompanies a serious illness or condition and providing the best possible quality of life for you and your loved ones. Palliative care does not replace your primary medical treatment. Palliative care may be offered at any stage of disease.



## Hospice Care

Hospice is palliative care at the end of life. It is a special type of supportive care that is focused on providing comfort—relieving physical, emotional and spiritual suffering. Hospice care involves a team-oriented approach to deliver expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support tailored to the patient's needs. Hospice care is provided when a patient has 6 months or less to live if the illness runs its expected course.

Palliative Care	Hospice Care
Any stage of disease	Six months or less to live if illness runs expected course
Must request a palliative referral from a physician	Anyone can refer to hospice for a consult, including family members or the patient
Provided at the same time as curative treatment	Provided after curative treatment ends
Medicare, Medicaid, and many private insurance plans cover the services provided by palliative care, according to the contract provisions of the insured's policy.	Covered by Medicare/Medicaid. Most private insurance plans provide a hospice benefit. If any treatments or services are not covered, Trustbridge provides notice.
Typically takes place in a hospital but may be provided in any care facility with palliative care providers	Delivered in any setting or place the patient calls home

# Pathway of Care

*When to consider palliative or hospice care*

**Healthy Adult – Illness – Terminal Illness – Death**

Preventative Care

Curative Care

Palliative Care

Hospice Care

## When You Should Consider Trustbridge



Wonder how you or your loved one's quality of life can be improved



Worry about the inability to enjoy life to the fullest because of uncomfortable symptoms



Need assistance with decision-making regarding goals of care related to a serious illness or condition

***We are here to provide answers to your questions to help improve your loved one's quality of life.***

Hospice of Palm Beach County  
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