Some common questions about palliative care:

Is my doctor still involved with my care? Absolutely! The palliative care team works with your doctor to help control your pain and other symptoms. Your doctor knows that patients who are referred to palliative care receive additional care, such as pain and symptom management and clear communication about the care plan, in the comfort of their own home. Patients receive consistent, coordinated care over the course of their illness.

Am I able to continue with my chemotherapy and other treatments while I am on palliative care? Yes! Patients can benefit from palliative care before, during and after life-prolonging treatment. In fact, studies show that palliative care helps cancer patients complete their chemotherapy treatments and improve their quality of life.

Is palliative care the same as hospice care? No. Palliative care is for any patient who needs comprehensive treatment of pain and symptoms at any stage of illness.

Providence Home Health is committed to improving the quality of life across the continuum of care as a premier provider of innovative home health services.

To make a donation to support the programs and services of Providence Health & Services, please call 503-215-8123.

OUR MISSION
As people of Providence, we reveal God’s love for all, especially the poor and vulnerable, through our compassionate service.

OUR CORE VALUES
Respect, Compassion, Justice, Excellence, Stewardship

Providence Home Services
503-215-4646

www.providence.org/home
What is palliative care?

Palliative care is a broad term used to describe a health care program that focuses on helping patients who have advanced disease or chronic illness manage their pain and symptoms. These patients often have complex needs that require specialized care.

Important elements in palliative care include attention to the physical, spiritual and social aspects of illness. A well-rounded team of palliative care experts can help patients and family members at all stages of illness.

When you or a loved one is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, your life changes dramatically. You may need information and support to help you adjust to these changes. You may need to talk to someone who understands, cares and know what to do. Providence Palliative Care may be exactly what you need.

Palliative care offers:

- **Management of difficult symptoms:** The palliative care team helps ease pain and breathing difficulties; reduce nausea and constipation; and address loss of appetite, fear, anxiety, confusion, depression and more.
- **Help in addressing the patient’s changing needs and goals:** The palliative care team helps identify the patient’s health care wishes; adjust care plans as symptoms change, or as requested by the patient; and transition the patient to hospice care, if necessary.
- **Coordination of care throughout the illness:** The palliative care team provides guidance regarding available treatment options; practical and emotional support for the family and caregivers; and counseling for individuals and families.
- **Education:** Knowledgeable team members help patients and family members or caregivers access community resources, support groups, patient education and information about specific diseases or conditions.

The palliative care team

Providence palliative care professionals are experienced in managing complicated medical conditions. Each person brings an important and unique set of skills to the team. Together they provide a complete, coordinated package of care services.

Our team consists of:

- Your personal doctor
- Palliative care nurse practitioners
- Registered nurses
- Case managers
- Pharmacists
- Physical, occupational and speech therapists
- Social workers
- Chaplains
- Dietitians
- Home health aides

Providence Palliative Care is part of the Providence Home Services continuum of care which includes:

- Home health
- Hospice
- Connections consultation
- Home medical equipment and oxygen
- Home infusion and specialty pharmacy