Why You Should
Demand Palliative Care
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ROCK
HEALTH

BeMoRe
What is Palliative Care?

Palliative medicine is specialized care for people with serious illnesses.

via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org
Sustainable Perspectives

Approximately 90 million Americans are living with serious and life-threatening illness, and this number is expected to more than double over the next 25 years with the aging of the baby boomers.

Data via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org
Sustainable Perspectives

Approximately 68% of Medicare costs are related to people with four or more chronic conditions.

Data via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org
By 2020, the number of people living with at least one chronic illness will increase to 157 million.

Data via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org
Palliative Care:

Where have we come from?

Where are we now?

Where are we going?
Palliative Care Fast Facts

Palliative Medicine is the fastest-growing medical subspecialty in the United States

Data via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org
What is Palliative Care?

• Goal to improve quality of life for the patient and the family

• Focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stresses of a serious illness—*whatever the diagnosis*

• Appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness

• Can be provided along with curative treatment

• Provided by a team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists who work together with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support

*Data via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org*
Palliative Care vs Hospice Care

Palliative Care

• Specialized care for serious illness
• Can be concurrent with curative treatment
• Not limited to the end of life

Hospice Care

• Specialized care for the end of life
• Most hospice clinicians are experts in palliative care
Palliative Care vs Hospice Care

Palliative Care

- Learn more about how hospice is different from Palliative Care

Hospice Care

- Learn more about Hospice
History of End-of-Life in America

90% of Americans say they would prefer to die at home

80% of Americans die in institutions

Learn more about the history of death in America here.

Data via National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Gallup Poll
Sustainable Perspectives

About 1/3rd of Medicare spending is on the last year of life.

Data via WBUR Boston: End of Life Care in America: Inside Out
Sustainable Perspectives

What about Medicare spending on hospice?
Hospice care in America is growing at a very fast pace. Even with growth...
Hospice accounts for 2.4% of Medicare spending.

Data & Chart via the Department of Health and Human Services 2011 Budget
Sustainable Perspectives

Data from a study out of the Duke Institute for Care at the End of Life estimates that hospice saves Medicare an average of $2,300 per patient.

Data via Hospice Action Network
Sustainable Perspectives

If hospital based palliative care programs were fully integrated into American hospitals, savings projections are $6 billion per year.

Data via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org
Sustainable Perspectives

Care based on a patient’s goals improves the quality of care... and a side effect is reduced cost.

If you go into a store and buy everything the sales person suggests, you will spend (way) more than if you go into the store and buy what you intended to buy... even if you purchase few extra things, just because you decided you wanted them.
Advance Care Planning

Advocating for patient goals to be at the center of care with legal documents (advance directives) which indicate an individual’s personal healthcare wishes. These documents help guide care based on that individual’s values if the person is not able to speak for themselves.

Learn more at nhdd.org

How important are advance directives?
Palliative Care Fast Facts

- 1 Cardiologist for every 71 persons experiencing a heart attack
- 1 Oncologist for every 141 newly diagnosed cancer patients
- 1 Palliative Medicine Physician for every 1,200 persons living with a serious or life-threatening illness

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Palliative Care Fast Facts

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Data via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org
Palliative Care Fast Facts

• Ten years ago there were almost no palliative care programs in America’s hospitals.

• Today, 63 percent of hospitals with fifty or more beds provide a palliative care team.

• In the last five years alone, access to palliative care in our nation’s hospitals has more than doubled.

Data via the Center to Advance Palliative Care: capc.org
Got Milk?

James Hallenbeck, MD

“Perhaps there is something we can learn from this award-winning ad that apparently revived milk sales.

The ads seem to invoke some key notions about the product, milk, which would apply equally well to palliative care.”

via Growthhouse: Got Palliative Care
Got Palliative Care?

James Hallenbeck, MD

“...The ads seem to invoke some key notions about the product, milk, which would apply equally well to palliative care:

• The product is a staple and should be widely available.
• The product should be there, when you need it. All you have to do is ask for it or open the door.
• **This is important, because you cannot always predict exactly when you will need it.**
• The product is basically good for you - in addition to helping meet your needs.
• The product is highly affordable. ”

via Growthhouse: [Got Palliative Care](#)
Why Demand Palliative Care?

- The palliative care team advocates for the patient and family’s goals to be at the center of all care
- Palliative care can be provided at the same time as other curative treatments
- People should be able to access relief from suffering at any stage of a serious illness
- Palliative care is dedicated to improving quality of life for the patient and the family
- Palliative care is interdisciplinary
- Palliative care teams help facilitate clear communication for informed decision making
Favorite Book For Learning More

Palliative Care: Transforming the Care of Serious Illness
by Diane E. Meier, Stephen Isaacs & Robert G. Hughes

Free Opening Chapter:
The Development, Status, and Future of Palliative Care
click here.

The Full Book:
click here
Discussions about 

Demanding Palliative Care

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