



# How do I talk to my patient about **PALLIATIVE CARE?**

Palliative care should be discussed when the patient has been given a prognosis of one year or less and is expected to transition from curative to comfort care. The earlier the palliative care conversation takes place the better. We can help you have the conversation with patients and their families.

Palliative care sits naturally at the hub of the wheel between home health and hospice, and provides specialized medical care that focuses on quality of life for patients dealing with the symptoms and stress of a serious advanced illness.

Focusing on quality of life throughout the course of a serious illness, palliative care helps match treatments with patient goals. Our team of clinical experts works collaboratively with the patient and family, you as their primary care physician, and other specialists and care organizations providing care to offer an extra layer of support throughout the patient's care continuum to:

- Reduce avoidable ER visits and hospitalizations
- Facilitate smooth transitions between care settings
- Increase patient and family satisfaction with the assurance that goals of care are being met
- Enhance overall quality of life

## **Palliative care teams are interdisciplinary and include:**

- Medical doctors
- Nurse practitioners
- Nurses
- Social workers & chaplains (as needed)

Palliative care can be provided in any place a patient calls home, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

With the help of palliative care, patients and families alike can focus on what's most important – being together and living as fully as possible.

**Contact your local provider today for more information.**