



# What are the indicators for **PALLIATIVE CARE?**

Helping your patients deal with symptoms and stress of a serious illness is a challenging task. Our palliative care program can help improve quality of life for seriously ill patients by addressing their physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs.

## **We can help:**

- 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 provides continuity of care. It is provided by a team of specialized doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, and other specialists who work together with a patient's doctors to provide an extra layer of support. They serve as a bridge between acute care, home healthcare, and hospice care, using clinical and psychosocial protocols to identify prospective patients and facilitate a smooth transition to in-home palliative care.

## **General referral criteria include one or more of the following:**

- Serious advanced disease with a prognosis of one year or less
- Expected transition from curative to comfort care
- More than two ER visits or hospital admissions in the last 6 months
- Advanced lung, cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease
- Advanced dementia
- Advanced Stage III or IV cancer
- CVA with subsequent function decreased by  $\geq 50\%$
- Progressive neurological disease
- HIV/AIDS

If the answer is “yes” to any of the above indicators, the patient may be a candidate for a palliative care consultation.

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