



Palliative care is the relief of pain and suffering for individuals living with serious illness. It's a team-based approach, providing an extra layer of support at any age or stage of illness, often together with curative treatment.

The Patient Quality of Life Coalition was formed to advance the interests of patients and families facing serious illness, including survivors. The Coalition includes more than 40 organizations dedicated to improving quality of care and quality of life for these adults and children. The Coalition has developed a consensus-based agenda aimed at promoting public policy that will improve and expand access to high-quality palliative care.

Member groups represent:

Patients
Survivors
Family caregivers
Hospitals
Health systems
Hospices
Physicians
Nurses
Social workers
Chaplains
Researchers

What is Palliative Care?

PatientQualityOfLife.org

The goal of palliative care is to prevent and relieve suffering and to support the best possible quality of life for patients and their families, regardless of the stage of the disease or the need for other therapies. It focuses on relief of the pain, symptoms, and stress of serious illness and on improving communication with patients and families. **Provided by a team of clinicians and specialists** who work with the patient's regular physicians to provide an extra layer of support, **palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness**. It can be provided wherever a patient is seen and can be provided together with curative treatment.

Palliative care holds the potential to transform the U.S. health care system and improve quality of life for the 90 million Americans living today with serious illness – a number that is expected to double in the next 20 years, according to Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care. Despite enormous expenditures, studies show that **patients with serious illness and their families receive poor-quality medical care** that is characterized by inadequately treated symptoms, fragmented care, poor communication with health care providers, and enormous strains on family members or other caregivers.

By focusing on priorities that matter most to patients and their families, **palliative care has been shown to improve both quality of care and quality of life during and after treatment**. Because their needs are met, patients receiving palliative care avoid crises, spend fewer days in the hospital, ED and ICU, and need fewer readmissions. **In fact, studies have demonstrated that high-quality palliative care not only improves quality of life and patient and family satisfaction, but it can also prolong survival**. Palliative care achieves these outcomes at a lower cost than usual care by helping patients better understand their needs, choose the most effective treatments, and avoid unnecessary or unwanted hospitalizations and interventions.

The Patient Quality of Life Coalition urges legislative and regulatory change that will:

1. **Advance patient, family, and public understanding** of how palliative care improves quality of care and quality of life.
2. **Develop a well-trained workforce** to ensure sufficient numbers of health care professionals, with appropriate training and skills, are available to teach and to directly provide palliative care.
3. **Invest in research** necessary to establish a strong evidence base for the delivery of high-quality palliative care.
4. **Expand the delivery of high-quality palliative care** in hospitals, nursing homes and community settings through improved data collection, quality measurement, and appropriate provider payment.
5. **Ensure timely access to prescription medication** necessary for effective management of pain and other distressing symptoms in patients with legitimate need.

In the 115th Congress, the coalition will be working in support of the following legislation:

The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act [PCHETA], H.R. 1676 / S. 693

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ACADEMY OF INTEGRATIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF NURSING

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY SOCIETY

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION | AMERICAN STROKE ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ASSOCIATION OF PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY NURSES

ASSOCIATION OF ONCOLOGY SOCIAL WORK

C-CHANGE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR PALLIATIVE CARE

CAMBIA HEALTH SOLUTIONS

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

CENTER TO ADVANCE PALLIATIVE CARE

CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

COALITION FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE OF CALIFORNIA

COLON CANCER ALLIANCE

COURAGEOUS PARENTS NETWORK

GEORGE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUALITY AND HEALTH

HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE NURSES ASSOCIATION

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

LUNG CANCER ALLIANCE

MOTION PICTURE & TELEVISION FUND

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CAREGIVING

NATIONAL COALITION FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH CENTER

NATIONAL PATIENT ADVOCATE FOUNDATION

NATIONAL POLST PARADIGM

ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY

PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE COALITION

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION

RESOLUTIONCARE

ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION

SUPPORTIVE CARE COALITION

SUPPORTIVE CARE MATTERS

TRINITY HEALTH

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICA

*For more information about the coalition or how to become a member, please contact:
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