



## PALLIATIVE CARE AT MCLAREN GREATER LANSING

Palliative care focuses on relieving the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for patients and their families.

Palliative care is appropriate at any point in a chronic illness. It can be provided at the same time as other treatments you're receiving—even curative or aggressive therapies.

For more information on palliative care, call (517) 975-8957.

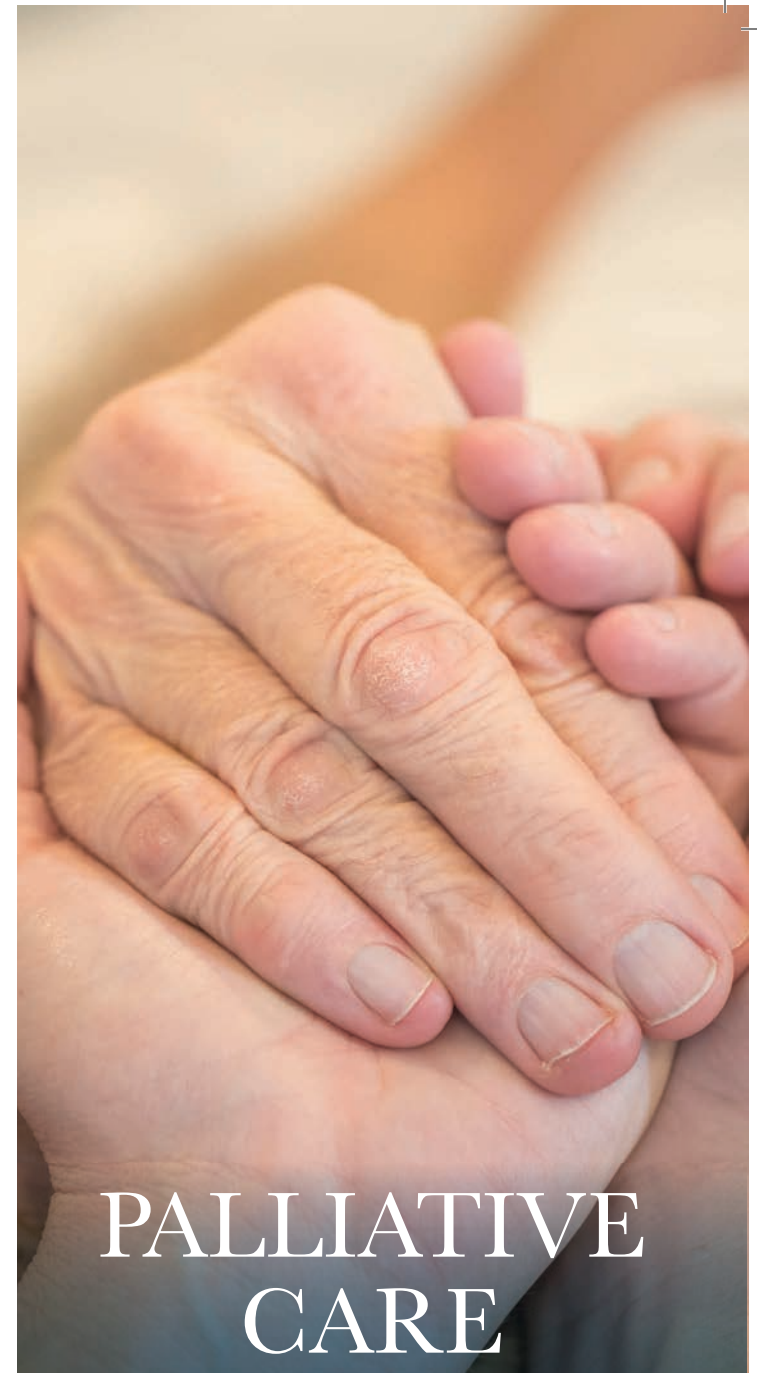


GREATER LANSING

DOING WHAT'S BEST.

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# PALLIATIVE CARE



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## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE?

Hospice is a type of palliative care that is comfort-focused and meant for patients with terminal illnesses in the final months of life.

Palliative care teams treat people living with serious, complex, and chronic illnesses such as the following:

- Alzheimer's
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Cancer
- Cardiac disease such as congestive heart failure (CHF)
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Kidney failure
- Parkinson's

Palliative care is available at any time during your illness. Unlike hospice, you can receive palliative care at the same time you're receiving curative treatments.

People facing serious illness benefit from palliative care at any stage of their illness. Palliative care should be considered a key component of medical care along with other appropriate treatments.

## HOW DOES PALLIATIVE CARE HELP?

Palliative care helps patients and families understand the nature of their illness and make timely, informed decisions about their care.

Patients and families state that palliative care has helped them improve their quality of life. This is achieved by identifying their goals, explaining options, and helping them maintain control. The team also supports the primary physician, the patient, and the family by providing:

- The ability to devote time to family meetings.
- Improved communication and support for resolving family/patient/physician questions concerning goals of care.
- Expertise in managing complex physical and emotional symptoms such as pain, shortness of breath, depression, nausea, and more.
- Coordination of care transitions across health care settings.

## WHAT TO EXPECT FOR HOSPITAL-BASED PALLIATIVE CARE

Our team of palliative care specialists meets with patients and their families to discuss goals of care and a treatment plan. They will also discuss advance directives, medical power of attorney, and code status.

The goal of the palliative care team is quality of life. They will assist with symptom management, which may include pain, shortness of breath, anxiety, constipation, or any other symptoms that may be causing distress.

You can learn more about McLaren Greater Lansing's Palliative Care by calling (517) 975-8957 or visiting the Center to Advance Palliative Care's webpage, available at [www.capc.org](http://www.capc.org).

*"Death is not the opposite of life but an innate part of it."*

*-Haruki Murakami*