



## Palliative Care

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by Barb Davis, RN Care Manager

What is palliative care? Palliative care is a specialized approach - providing comfort to patients suffering a serious illness, no matter what the diagnosis. The focus of care is on improving the patient's quality of life.

The overwhelming challenge of a serious illness brings patients and their families to a crisis: there is the fear of the unknown and the resultant sense of loss of control; discomfort and pain; the bewildering array of medical personnel and medical terminology as well as the need to navigate a vast institutional system of care that often seems cold and remote; and always there is the confusion and emotional distress that comes when life is suddenly

changing and the future uncertain. Palliative care seeks to assist the seriously ill individual to manage these and other challenges. In the midst of the struggle to cure the illness, palliative care helps to manage symptoms and support the patient and family. Palliative care may be appropriate for anyone with a serious, complex illness or a long period of decline due to the progression of a chronic disease. Insurance plans and Medicare may cover all or part of palliative care.

Stowell Associates care managers can provide information and support for patients and families facing a challenging diagnosis and prognosis and assist with a palliative care referral. We also have the experience needed to assist patients in navigating the medical system and facilitating transitions across care settings.

"Barb was an invaluable resource to our whole family." Daughter Beth RN.

"You made it possible for my father to have a peaceful death at home as he and his family had wished." A grateful son.

Since 1983 improving the quality of the day to day lives of our clients and their families in ways both small and large. Nationally Accredited by the Joint Commission. Locally owned by professional social workers who are leaders locally and nationally. Recognized as a Top Workplace 2011-2014 receiving Best in Class and a Special Leadership Award (2011), a Training Award (2012) and Best in Class and a Special Management Award (2014). Torch Award recipient for Business Ethics and Integrity from the Wisconsin Better Business Bureau (2004).

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