



Palliative Medicine Common Questions

Why did my doctor refer me to Palliative Medicine?

Palliative Medicine clinicians are specially trained to address the symptoms and life changes that accompany serious illness. Patients are referred to Palliative Medicine to improve their quality of life.

Is my visit with Palliative Medicine covered by my insurance?

Yes. This service is covered by Medicare and most Medi-Cal and private insurance providers. Our authorization specialists will ensure that your visit is covered prior to our team seeing you. If your visit is not covered, we will let you know in advance.

How is palliative care different from hospice?

Hospice is for patients at the end of their life, who are no longer receiving disease modifying treatment and choose to focus on home based aggressive symptom management. Palliative Medicine can support patients of any age and at any stage of illness, including while in treatment.

How does the Palliative Medicine team interact with my primary doctors?

The Palliative Medicine team works alongside the doctors on your treatment team to provide you with the best care. If you are an oncology patient, your oncologist will be responsible for your oncology treatment plan, including any chemotherapy, radiation, and other medical treatments related to your diagnosis. If you are a primary care patient, your primary care provider will be responsible for your treatment plan. Palliative Medicine providers will manage any medications prescribed by our team. If you have any questions regarding who is responsible for managing a particular medication, please do not hesitate to ask.

Will advance care planning be included in my visit?

We offer support and guidance around goals of care and advance care planning, as directed by you. We respect your treatment decisions and want to support you in any way that we can.