

# Palliative Care Speed Dating: Why Palliative Care and Cancer Care are such a Great Match

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# Objectives

- Fully understand the role of a palliative care provider in caring for complex cancer patients
- Differentiate between primary palliative care and specialty palliative care
- Share the Palliative Care Network of Wisconsin Resources
- Discuss the impact of palliative care during COVID

# What is Palliative Care?

Specialized, integrated medical care for people with serious illness, focused on providing patients and families with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness – whatever the diagnosis.

Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and can be provided together with curative treatment. We work closely with the treating team to help patients and families identify and achieve **meaningful, realistic goals of care** across the spectrum of illness, from diagnosis until end of life.

# What is Palliative Care?

Palliative Care is a structured approach to the needs of a seriously ill patient.

Pain  
and  
Other  
Symptoms

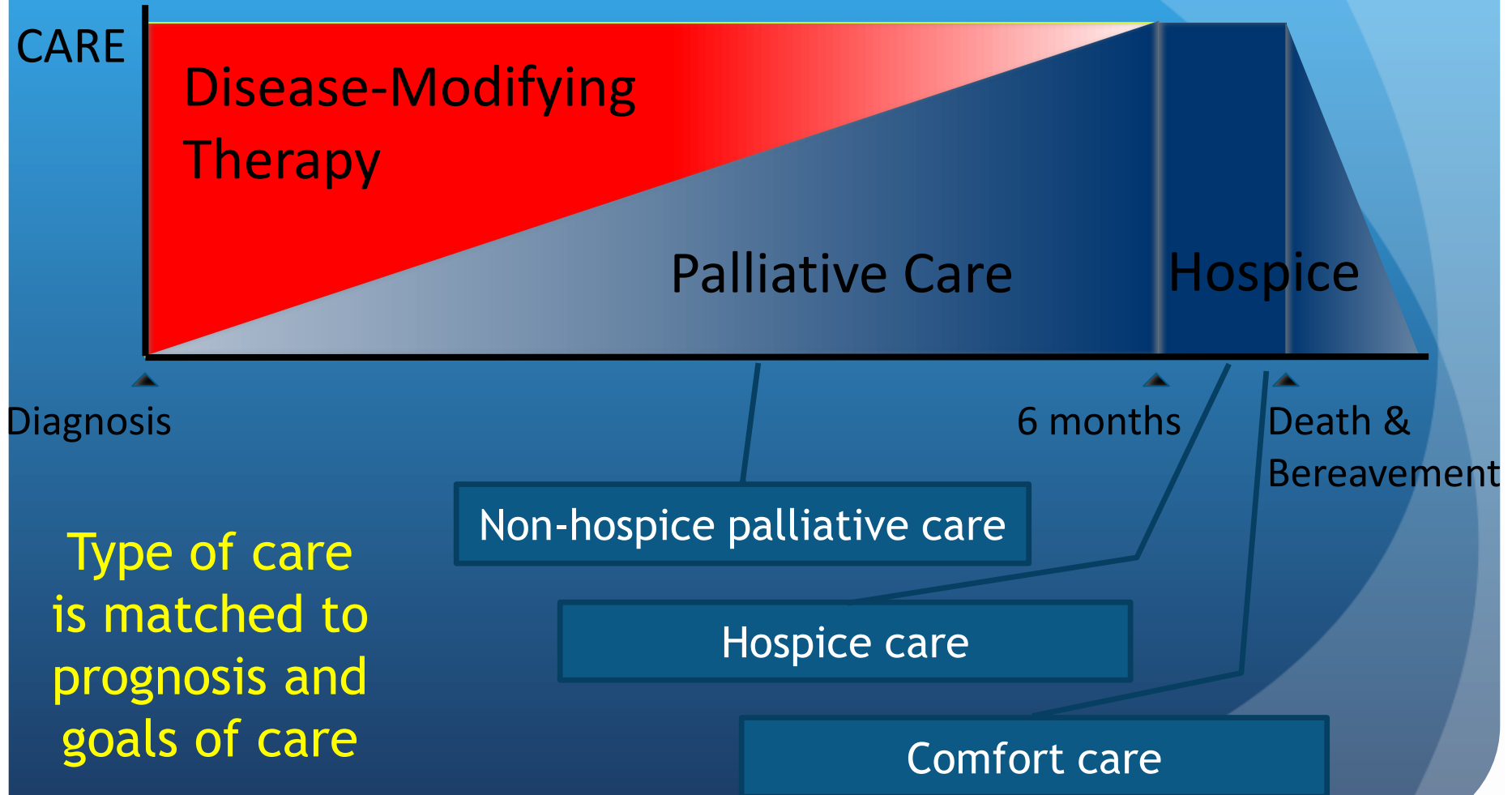
Social  
and  
Spiritual  
Concerns

Understanding  
of Illness,  
Prognosis,  
Treatment  
Options

Identifying  
Goals  
and  
Advance Care  
Planning

Transitions  
Between  
Settings  
and  
Providers

# Continuum of Care



# Palliative Care

- Targets sickest, most vulnerable, costliest patients and their families
- Provides an additional level of support for patients and their caregivers
- Helps simplify transitions across care settings

# Demonstrated Benefits of Palliative Care

- Decrease in ICU LOS
- Decrease in avoidable ED utilization
- Decreased readmissions
- Substantial cost avoidance and improved efficiency
- More timely referrals to supportive programs in community (palliative RN, population health, case management, hospice)
- Additional support for the treatment team
- Improved job satisfaction for staff
- Improved patient satisfaction

# Primary vs. Specialist Palliative Care

- Primary palliative care
  - Identification of unmet needs
  - Basic discussions of diagnosis and prognosis
  - Awareness of advance care planning documents
  - Basic code status discussions
  - Symptom management



# Primary vs. Specialist Palliative Care

- Specialist palliative care
  - On-going discussions of complex goals of care
  - Refractory symptoms
  - Severe spiritual, existential or psychosocial distress
  - Poorly defined, inconsistent or unachievable goals
  - Complex family dynamics, social issues
  - Challenging decisions regarding the use (or potential termination) of life-prolonging treatments

Patient/Family Centered Care

Person centered vs Clinician  
centered care

# Palliative Care and Cancer Care

- Symptom Management
- Clarifying Goal of Care
- Code Status discussions
- Advance Care Planning
- Partnering with oncology team
- Teaching Primary Palliative Care

# Palliative Care Network of Wisconsin

- PCNOW started in 2015
- Support the growth of palliative care services in Wisconsin through education, systems change and advocacy
- Partnered with Metastar and rural palliative care project
- Advocacy work at the capitol- Advance Directive Registry(Cancer Action Network), State Palliative Care Committee
- Goals of care communication training
- [www.mypcnow.org](http://www.mypcnow.org)

# Palliative Care Network of Wisconsin

## Oncology Fast Facts

- #13- Determining Prognosis in Advanced Cancer
- #14- Palliative Chemotherapy
- #129- Steroids in the Treatment of bone pain
- #173- Cancer related fatigue
- #190- Parenteral nutrition in Advanced Cancer Patients
- Symptom management
- Goals of care conversations
- Code status discussions and statistics

# Palliative Care During COVID

- Goals of care training
- Proactive discussions
- Advance Care Planning
- Emotional support
- Eyes and ears for families

Questions???

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[www.pcnow.org](http://www.pcnow.org)