

Support for Patients and Families

5 signs your loved one may be ready for palliative care

Palliative care is an extra layer of support for you and your family. It can provide relief from the symptoms, pain and stress of a serious illness and improve quality of life while supporting your desire to remain in your home. It also reduces the risk of hospital admissions or ER visits. Palliative care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, doctors are seeing patients only in the most serious conditions, which means many eligible patients are not being regularly evaluated and referred to palliative care by their physicians.

Here are signs that a patient may be ready for palliative care:

- 1. Advanced, life-limiting illness or condition — such as dementia, central nervous system disease, cancer, renal disease, COPD, heart failure, liver disease, septic shock or major trauma**
- 2. Frequent hospitalizations or ER visits — two or more in last 6 months**
- 3. Uncontrolled symptoms — pain, dyspnea, depression, fatigue, etc. — despite optimal medical management**
- 4. Functional decline — unexplained weight loss, loss of mobility, frequent falls, skin breakdown, etc.**
- 5. A permanent feeding tube is being considered**

If you believe your loved one may be ready for palliative care, call Compassus. We can provide a consultation without obligation and arrange for an assessment by a medical director or a nurse with specialized training.

If you choose Compassus for palliative care, we will develop a comprehensive plan of care that will be managed by our experienced care team.

How do I make a referral?

Contact one of our Compassus Palliative Care Locations
<https://www.compassus.com/services/palliative-care>

