

PALLIATIVE CARE VS. HOSPICE CARE

Defining the differences of chronic and end-of-life care

P

Palliative Care is focused on alleviating physical discomfort. It does not treat the illness, but creates relief from symptoms to help people with with chronic, but not necessarily terminal, illness

H

Hospice Care is to help patients who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness and is also meant to alleviate physical discomfort. Care is usually in the patients home

P

Life-prolonging medications may be used, and a multi-disciplinary medical team may be in place and continues to be on-going

H

Life-prolonging medication will not be used. Hospice relies on visiting nurses, family, friends, and hospice volunteers to help the patient and their caregivers

P

Is appropriate for patients at all different stages of disease and addresses mental, spiritual, physical, and social well being.

H

Hospice Care makes the patient comfortable and prepares patient and family for end of life. Mental, spiritual, physical, and social well being are also vital parts of hospice care.