

New!

Advanced Certification for Palliative Care

Recognizing hospital inpatient programs that demonstrate exceptional care for patients with serious illness.



The Joint Commission's New Advanced Certification Program for Palliative Care

is designed to recognize hospital inpatient programs that demonstrate exceptional patient and family-centered care in order to optimize the quality of life for patients with serious illnesses. Palliative care is specialized medical care focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness—whatever the diagnosis.

Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists who work together with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness and can be provided along with curative treatment. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.



Advanced Certification for Palliative Care emphasizes:

- A formal, organized, inpatient palliative care program led by an interdisciplinary team whose members possess the requisite expertise in palliative care,
- Leadership endorsement and support of the program's goals for providing care, treatment and services,
- A special focus on patient and family engagement,
- Processes which support the coordination of care and communication among all care settings and providers, and
- The use of evidence-based national guidelines or expert consensus to guide patient care.

The standards for palliative care certification are based on National Consensus Guidelines, and were developed under the guidance of The Joint Commission Health Care Services Task force, which is composed of experts in palliative care and key stakeholder organizations.

Download the new standards at www.jointcommission.org/palliativestandards



To be eligible for Advanced Certification for Palliative Care, a hospital must:

- Follow an organized approach supported by an interdisciplinary team of health professionals,
- Use standardized clinical practice guidelines or evidence-based practice,
- Have the ability to direct the clinical management of patients and coordinate care,
- Provide the full range of palliative care services to hospitalized patients 24 hours per day, seven days per week, either with on-site staff or on-call, and
- Use performance measurement to improve its performance over time.

The Benefits of Joint Commission Advanced Certification for Palliative Care:

- Certification is an independent evaluation that validates the quality of the palliative care program.
- The standards for certification will help a hospital build a better, more organized program that tailors treatment to individual needs.
- Certification evaluates ways the hospital can improve performance and clinical practice to improve patient care.
- Certification will help the hospital achieve regular and more consistent flows of data and information.

Demonstrate your commitment to excellence

Joint Commission's Advanced Certification for Palliative Care is evidence that a quality program is focused on achieving

optimum care. Patients, families, employers and providers will benefit from palliative care programs that have been evaluated by The Joint Commission for compliance with relevant standards, for effective use of clinical practice guidelines, and for the use of performance measures and improvement.



About the Center to Advance Palliative Care

The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) provides health care professionals with the tools, training and technical assistance necessary to start and sustain successful palliative care programs in hospitals and other health care settings. Located at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, CAPC is a national organization dedicated to increasing the availability of quality palliative care services for people facing serious, complex illness.

CAPC is supported by Archstone Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, Brookdale Foundation, The Donaghue Foundation, The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Mill Park Foundation, New York State Health Foundation, The Olive Branch Fund, the Partnership for Palliative Care, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, United Hospital Fund, and The Y.C. Ho/Helen and Michael Chiang Foundation.



www.capc.org

For more information about the Advanced Certification for Palliative Care, please call (630) 792-5291, or email palliative@jointcommission.org.

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“Palliative care is focused on maximizing quality of life for seriously ill patients and their families. Over 1500 leading U.S. hospitals today have a palliative care team, and Joint Commission recognition of the importance of palliative care to overall quality of care represents a giant step forward for the field. I know I am joined by colleagues across the country when I express my appreciation to The Joint Commission for helping to ensure that all palliative care teams deliver care of uniformly high quality.”

*Diane E. Meier, M.D., Director,
Center to Advance Palliative Care, and Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute,
Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY*