

Palliative care for non-cancer patients - Outline
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Every day, primary care clinicians care for people with chronic, progressive, often incurable diseases. They develop long-standing relationships with patients and families, and understand the psychosocial issues and social determinants of health. Primary care clinicians are uniquely situated to explore advance care planning and quality of life issues when patients are facing life-limiting illness and complex medical decision-making.

Most clinicians think about quality of life issues and advance care planning (especially end-of-life care) when caring for people with incurable cancer. However, most patients die of progressive, chronic and ultimately terminal diseases such as congestive heart failure, chronic lung disease, dementia and many others.

In this session, we will explore a primary-care/palliative-care approach to people with serious, progressive illness. This type of intradisciplinary care is focused on providing patients relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness, and improve quality of life for both the patient and family.

Using a case-based format and online resources, we will explore the following questions:

- What is the same and what is different about palliative care and hospice?
- How can I better estimate prognosis and recognize opportunities for goals-of-care discussions?
- What tools can I incorporate into my busy practice to help me address advance care planning and other palliative care issues?
- How can I better anticipate hospitalizations and nursing home placement, and communicate goals across care settings?
- When should I consult palliative care?
- When should I consult hospice?
- What is my role as PCP once my patient has entered hospice, and how do I work with the hospice team?