

Community Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Program

Information for Patients and Families

Ontario Health atHome has a dedicated team of Community Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners (CPCNP) providing direct in home clinical care to patients with palliative care needs.

While CPCNPs are independent health care providers and act as the most responsible provider, they collaborate with local teams including: primary care, hospice residences, community hospice programs, palliative care units, acute care, emergency departments, service providers, and other community teams/organizations to support patients living and dying in their place of choice.

Enhancing the quality of palliative care through:

- Earlier diagnosis and management of disease and burdensome symptoms
- Reducing hospital admissions and Emergency Department visits
- Management of pain and other symptoms through prescribing and monitoring of medication, and other interventions to the full scope of NP practice
- Ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests

- Facilitating Person-Centred Decision Making conversations to understand patient's choices and to develop a plan of care
- Facilitating direct admission to a palliative care unit or hospice residence
- Supporting community based Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) requests, assessments, and provisions
- Building capacity and collaboration within the inter-professional team

Referrals for the CPCNP program are made to Ontario Health atHome at 1-855-352-2555 using the Request for Assessment form. For more information, contact Ontario Health atHome at 1-800-263-3877. CPCNPs are available 24/7 through your Care Coordinator or Service Provider.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Patient is aware of their palliative diagnosis
- Patient has identified palliative care needs or the potential for complex pain and symptom management
- Prognosis of less than six (6) months