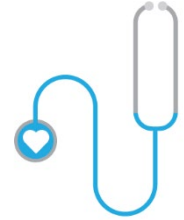


Hospice Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Program



About the Program

The Hospice Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner (HPCNP) Program is part of the Ontario government's 9,000 nurses' commitment, a key component of Ontario's health human resources strategy.

Ontario Health atHome's HPCNP Program is comprised of a dedicated team of nurse practitioners (NPs) providing direct clinical care to patients with complex palliative needs, including pain and symptom management.

Interprofessional Care is Gold Standard

The HPCNPs collaborate with interprofessional care teams across the health care continuum including, but not limited to home care, primary care, specialized hospice palliative care, acute care and community supportive care organizations/agencies to support patients in living and dying in their place of choice.

The HPCNP works within a shared care model with the patient's primary care provider, to support continuity of care and increase capacity within those primary care providers providing hospice palliative care (HPC).

To receive services, a patient will:

- Have a life-limiting disease e.g., cancer, COPD, CHF, etc.
- Be aware of their palliative care diagnosis, with a life expectancy of 6-12 months.
- Be identified as having HPC needs currently or have the potential to need complex pain and symptom management in the future.
- Be receiving or being referred for Ontario Health atHome services.
- Be supported by a most responsible physician or NP, who agrees to a Shared Care Model.

The HPCNP Program contributes to excellence in the delivery of care for people of all ages and their families requiring hospice palliative care.

The program's goal is to enrich the value of Hospice Palliative Care delivery at home, by collaboratively supporting the patient and family throughout their journey.

Enhancing the quality of hospice palliative care through:

- Earlier diagnosis of HPC needs.
- Direct clinical care in the home to the full scope of practice of the HPCNP.
- Management of pain and other symptoms through prescribing and monitoring of medication, and other interventions.
- Support to patients in their choice to die in their preferred place.
- Assistance with admission to hospital or residential hospice, if this is the patient preference.
- Interventions to reduce hospital admissions and avoidable emergency department visits.
- Opportunities to strengthen consultation within the interprofessional team.
- Collaboration with all community partners, such as nurses and personal support workers.

Referrals

Referrals for this program are made by completing a referral to Ontario Health atHome and faxing it to the care coordinator.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact:

310-2222 • ontariohealthathome.ca

Philosophy Statement

“You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die.”

— Dame Cicely Saunders, nurse, physician, writer and founder of hospice movement (1918 - 2005)

Important Facts

- Hospice Palliative Care (HPC) is whole-person health care that aims to relieve suffering and improve the quality of living and dying.
- HPC may complement and enhance disease-modifying therapy or may become the total focus of care.
- Only 10 per cent of people die suddenly, while the remaining 90% will require assistance and support at some point in their lives.
- HPC strives to help patients and their families prepare for, and manage, self-determined life closure and the dying process, and to cope with loss and grief during illness and bereavement.

Source: Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association