



A Palliative Approach to Care

Toward Implementing a Palliative Care Approach throughout Healthcare in Ontario: Palliative Care Health Services Delivery Framework & Ontario Palliative Care Competency Framework

Spring is a time of renewal, refocus, and for Spring 2019, the release of two comprehensive frameworks for Hospice Palliative Care, in Ontario. Both documents are the result of collaborative, interprofessional consultation throughout the province.

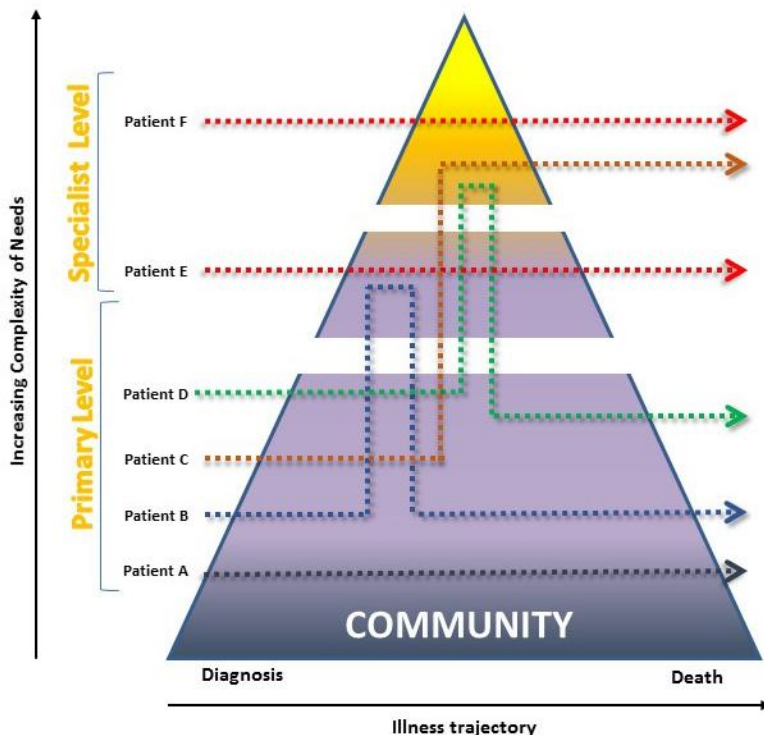
The Ontario Palliative Care Competency Framework recognizes the interprofessional and team-based nature of providing hospice and palliative care. Palliative care competencies are outlined for generalist-level hospice palliative care providers, speciality healthcare providers and specialist-level hospice palliative care providers. Read more about the Palliative Care competencies that align with your role:

<https://www.ontariopalliativecarenetwork.ca/sites/opcn/files/OPCNCompetencyFramework.pdf>

Timely for this moment in the Ontario health care sector, the Palliative Care Health Services Delivery Framework, offers recommendations to the healthcare system for the integration of hospice palliative care service delivery, through primary care teams, acute care, community care, long-term care, hospices and specialized hospice palliative care services.

<https://www.ontariopalliativecarenetwork.ca/sites/opcn/files/OPCNHSDFRRecommendations.pdf>

Who provides palliative care?



- A small number of patients with complex needs require transfer of care to specialist palliative care services
- Some patients may occasionally require assistance of a specialist palliative team (a consultation or shared care support)
- Most patients require only primary-level Palliative Care (Palliative Care Approach)
 - Family medicine clinic
 - Oncology team
 - Internal med clinics
 - Cardiology clinics
 - COPD clinics

Palliative care is not the responsibility of specialist palliative care and teams. All health professionals who provide any form of care to patients with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses should be able to provide basic primary- or generalist-level palliative care, also known as the “Palliative Care Approach”

Primary-Level Palliative Care

Most palliative and end-of-life (EOL) care can be provided at this primary, or generalized, level. It requires basic palliative & EOL care competencies and the support of palliative care specialist teams

Specialist-Level Palliative Care

A smaller number of patients require specialist-level care services. Palliative care specialists also provide consultation and education support to generalists providing a Palliative Care Approach

Sources:

- Who provides palliative care? www.pallium.ca
- Ontario Palliative Care Network: <https://www.ontariopalliativecarenetwork.ca>