

The Value of Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Rounds

Health Quality Ontario’s Palliative Care Quality Standard, [Statement #12 – Interdisciplinary Team-Based Care](#), outlines the important role interdisciplinary team-based care plays in care planning to achieve optimal palliative care outcomes

Through interdisciplinary group discussion on specific cases, we can work together to identify patient/family palliative care needs and collectively determine priorities based on what healthcare providers have learned about the patient/family’s wishes.

Rounds may look slightly different or go by other names depending what sector you work in. However, they all share some common goals:

- ❖ to facilitate communication
- ❖ to allow for collaborative teamwork
- ❖ to share evidence informed recommendations for the patient’s palliative care plan
- ❖ and ultimately improve patient/family outcomes.





Rounds Examples Across Sectors

Long Term Care Homes: [Palliative care conferences](#)² are a common example of a form of rounds. The team holds a meeting to discuss an individual resident with the individual and their substitute decision maker(s) present if possible. Teams might also get together through palliative care committees or [comfort care rounds](#)³ to discuss resident cases and make recommendations about their palliative care plan.





Palliative Care Units & Hospices: Typically, the team meets on a weekly basis to have rounds to discuss the patients and families they are caring for on the unit/residence with the aim of ensuring their care planning is up to date.

Home & Community Care: Providers across multiple organizations and disciplines come together monthly for regional palliative care rounds to discuss patient cases and work together to address challenges and issues through evidence-informed suggestions. To learn more about this approach, check out [Interior Health’s whole community palliative care rounds](#)⁴.

Benefits to [Patient/Family](#)⁵

-  Timely access to interventions & supports to improve their quality of life
-  Increased awareness & understanding of patient/family’s issues/ gaps in care
-  Improved communication of patient/family’s needs/wishes/goals of care
-  Patient and family are supported to manage their palliative care needs

Benefits to [Health Care Provider](#)⁵

-  Facilitates linkages to evidence informed palliative care tools/resources to enhance their clinical practice & improve the care the patient/family receives
-  Practical & relevant case-based learning through group discussions & facilitated communication
-  Opportunity for networking & building trusting relationships with other healthcare providers across organizations.
-  Improves system efficiencies & saves healthcare resources by preventing expensive patient transfers for unmanaged issues etc.

Resources

1. [HPC Consultation Services](#) & [Health Quality Ontario](#)
2. [SPA-LTC](#)
3. [Palliative Alliance](#)
4. [Interior Health](#)
5. [Canadian Home Care Association](#)