



Statement 12: Interdisciplinary Team-Based Care



People with identified palliative care needs receive integrated care from an interdisciplinary team, which includes volunteers.

The model of care used to deliver health services can affect the quality of the care received.

Team-based, integrated care facilitates continuity for people with a progressive, life-limiting illness, their family, and their caregivers.

The team-based model of care includes the patient, family, and a nurse or physician with the knowledge and skills to deliver palliative care.

The team may also include people in other roles, such as social workers, psychologists, spiritual advisors, personal support workers, healers, medicine people, Elders, or volunteers.

The knowledge, personal attributes and skills needed to deliver high-quality palliative care for each type of healthcare team member are outlined in the OPCN's [Palliative Care Competency Framework](#) (2019).

The services provided by the team include symptom management, psychosocial care, care plan development, advance care planning conversations, goals of care discussions, and care coordination.

Sources:

- *HQO Quality Standard for Palliative Care: [Statement #12 – Interdisciplinary Team-Based Care](#)*
- *Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN) [Palliative Care Competency Framework](#) (2019)*

PALLIATIVE CARE

Care for Adults With a Progressive, Life-Limiting Illness

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Quality Statements in Brief

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Interdisciplinary Team-Based Care

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Background

What This Quality Statement Means

Quality Indicators

Definitions Used Within This Quality Statement

01 | Identification and Assessment of Needs

02 | Timely Access to Palliative Care Support

03 | Advance Care Planning—Substitute Decision-Maker

04 | Goals of Care Discussions and Consent

05 | Individualized, Person-Centred Care Plan

06 | Management of Pain and Other Symptoms

07 | Psychosocial Aspects of Care

What this Quality Standard Means

For Patients, Families, and Caregivers

You should have access to care providers who are knowledgeable about palliative care and who will work together to meet your needs and goals of care.

For Clinicians

Collaborate with other health care providers, volunteers, family, and caregivers to meet the needs of people receiving palliative care.

For Health Services

Provide adequately resourced systems and services to ensure that health care professionals, volunteers, and caregivers can work in teams to provide integrated palliative care.