

Extra Support for People with Serious Illness: How Palliative Care Helps

People with serious illness often face significant physical, emotional, or spiritual challenges while they are undergoing treatment and managing life with their disease. Extra services called “palliative care” help people with serious illness to live as well as they can by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering. Palliative care is provided by a multidisciplinary team (may include a doctor or nurse practitioner, RN or LVN, social worker, and chaplain), and can be provided concurrently with curative care. L.A. Care’s palliative care program contracts with home-based providers for these services. Palliative care has been shown to improve clinical and patient experience outcomes.

Types of Services:

- Palliative care assessment development
- Discussion of goals of care
- Development and maintenance of a palliative care plan
- Pain and symptom management
- Care coordination
- Advance care planning, including advance directives and POLST forms where appropriate
- Connection to other supportive services (e.g., mental health, medical social services)

Who is eligible to receive palliative care?

Palliative care is a benefit for L.A. Care enrollees with Medi-Cal and Dual Special Needs plan (HMO D-SNP) covered enrollees only.

ADULTS	PEDIATRICS
<p>General eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Using/expected to use the hospital and/or ED to manage their illness ✓ Advanced or late stage of illness and not in hospice ✓ Death within one year is not unexpected ✓ Member will try in home or outpatient management prior to using the ED ✓ Member will participate in advance care planning <p>Eligible conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advanced Congestive Heart Failure ○ Advanced Chronic Obstructive ○ Pulmonary Disease ○ Advanced Cancer (Stage III or IV) ○ End Stage Liver Disease ○ Other advanced condition that is known to be life-limiting 	<p>General eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The member is under age 21 ✓ The family and/or legal guardian agrees to the provision of pediatric palliative care services ✓ Member has a life-threatening illness <p>Disease Specific Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conditions for which curative treatment is possible, but may fail ○ Conditions requiring intensive long-term treatment aimed at maintaining quality of life ○ Progressive conditions for which treatment is exclusively palliative after diagnosis ○ Conditions involving severe, non-progressive disability, or causing extreme vulnerability to health complications

How to Make a Referral:

- 1 Complete** the Universal Palliative Care Referral Form (*Page 1*)
- PCP/Specialist signature or attached order is preferred but not required
- 2 Attach** pertinent history, medical records, test results for clinical review
- 3 Submit** to MLTSS Team via Fax: **213.438.4866** or Email: **MLTSS@lacare.org**

Please contact us with any questions about the program, our clinical and administrative staff would be happy to assist you.