

PACC PROGRAM

(Palliative Approach & Comfort Care)

in Assisted Living



What is Palliative Approach to Care?

A Palliative Approach to care aims to provide comfort and improve quality of life through whole person-centered care. It reduces the stress of a serious illness including managing emergencies to reduce hospital visits. It is NOT just for persons at the end of life.



What is Comfort Care?

Defined as care that is focused on symptom control, pain relief, and quality of life. In the PACC Program during the late stages of palliative care are when patients are typically identified for a pathway that includes comfort care at the end of life.

When to Start a Palliative Approach to Care?

Palliative Care can start at any time or any stage of illness. Signs that you may be ready for palliative care:

- ▶ Frequent emergency room visits
- ▶ More than one hospitalization in the last 30 days
- ▶ A serious illness or chronic progressive disease
- ▶ Symptoms that have been difficult to manage
- ▶ Interested in aging in place

WHAT WILL THE PACC PROGRAM DO??

1. Affirm Goals Of Care

“We are here to support and care for you to live well until the end of your life”

2. Inform and Guide

“Things are changing for you. This seems a good time for a family conference.”

3. Enhance Symptom Management

“Your loved one is more frail now, and we will review how we can manage their fatigue”

4. Anticipate Care Needs

“Would it be helpful to you for us to arrange for additional aide coverage?”



Earlier integration of a palliative approach enhances quality of living.

Who can make a referral?

- ▶ Patient, family member, case manager, primary physician and/or specialist. (see our Contact Us page)

Is it covered by insurance?

- ▶ Medicare part B covers this service at 80%, some secondary insurances will cover the additional 20% (see our insurance page).

Will I be referred to Hospice?

- ▶ In Onondaga County our Hospice no longer accepts patients living in an Assisted Living. Both our PACC Program and Hospice focus on helping patients manage symptoms and improve quality of life.