

Palliative Care

For Alvord Brain Tumor Center patients

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is special kind of healthcare. It focuses on easing the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. The goal is to improve the quality of life for patients, families, and caregivers.

Palliative care is for anyone with a serious illness. It is not based on the patient's age or stage of illness. Palliative care can be provided to patients with cancer while they are getting active treatment. This includes chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and immunotherapy.

What is the Palliative Care Clinic?

The Palliative Care Clinic in the Alvord Brain Tumor Center (ABTC) is a special service that offers extra support and comfort for patients and families living with a brain tumor. Our team attends to all aspects of the patient's well-being. This includes their emotional and spiritual needs, and what they value most. We can also help guide talks between patients, families, and the healthcare team.

How does the ABTC palliative care team help patients and families?

Our palliative care team can help ABTC patients and their families:

- Manage pain and other physical and emotional symptoms
- Cope with the stress of living with a serious illness
- Navigate the hospital and healthcare systems
- Coordinate care among all providers and care settings



Palliative care providers can be present during talks with your healthcare team.

- Connect to information and resources
- Talk about complex health issues
- Make important decisions
- Align the healthcare plan with their personal goals
- Plan for the future
- Cope with grief and loss
- Live as well as possible for as long as possible

What happens during a palliative care consult?

During a palliative care consult, we will focus on getting to know you as a person. We will explore how your illness has affected you and your family, both physically and emotionally.

Some of the questions we may ask are:

- What is most important to you?
- What is your understanding of your current situation?
- What are you hoping for during this time of uncertainty?
- What concerns you the most?
- What should we know about you as a person in order to give you the best care possible?

How do we learn more?

Talk with your care team about palliative care. Ask them to request a palliative care consult for you.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

To talk with a nurse:

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 206.598.2282 and select option #2.

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call our Community Care Line at 206.598.3300.