

What is palliative care?



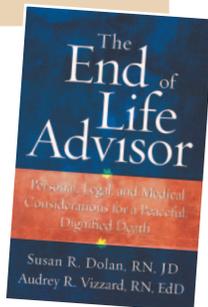
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Susan R. Dolan RN, JD brings twenty years of hospice experience to her work as a healthcare consultant, advocate and advisor on end-of-life care. A registered nurse and attorney, Susan is coauthor of the 2009 award winning book, *The End-of-Life Advisor: Personal, Legal and Medical Considerations for a Peaceful, Dignified Death*. Susan appears in the critically acclaimed film *Consider the Conversation: a documentary on a taboo subject*.

In addition to helping private clients, healthcare professionals and care facilities, Susan speaks for groups and large fund raising events and publishes a popular blog at Huffington Post.

Palliative care is intended to ease any kind of pain and suffering, whether it's physical, emotional or spiritual. And it's available at any time during a patient's illness, so it can be delivered along with life-prolonging and curative treatments.

For example, a cancer patient who is receiving chemotherapy and radiation might receive palliative care in an effort to relieve pain and anxiety. Or, someone who has just had back surgery might receive palliative care to relieve severe pain and nausea.

So what is the difference between palliative care and hospice care?

The primary goal of hospice is to relieve suffering. So all hospice care is palliative care. But not all palliative care is hospice, because palliative care is available at anytime during any type of illness, not just at the end of life. Many hospice programs offer palliative care as a separate service for patients who may need pain and symptom management but who are not ready for hospice for a variety of reasons.

Learn more at Endoflifeadvisor.com. While we have nothing to say about getting into this world, we certainly have a lot to say about getting out!



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