



VA Butler Healthcare

*...providing quality health care
to our nation's Veterans*



ARMSTRONG COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Klingensmith Building
313 Ford Street, Suite 2B
Ford City, PA 16226
724.763.4090

CLARION COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

AC Valley Medical Center
855 Route 58, Suite One
Parker, PA 16049
724.659.5601

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Freedom Square
1183 Freedom Road, Suite A101
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724.741.3131

LAWRENCE COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Ridgewood Professional Centre
1750 New Butler Road
New Castle, PA 16101
724.598.6080

MICHAEL A. MARZANO VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

295 North Kerrwood Drive, Suite 110
Hermitage, PA 16148
724.346.1569



Is Palliative Care right for me?

Research has shown that Palliative Care improves health care quality in three ways.

1. Relief of physical and emotional suffering
2. Improvement in patient-provider communication and decision making
3. Coordinated continuity of care across multiple health care settings

Palliative Care professionals look at Veterans' **goals, concerns, and future needs** to decrease the burden of the illness and its effects on the Veteran and family. Information is provided so the Veteran and family can be more confident in making informed decisions regarding health care and quality of life.

Ultimately, **YOU decide** if Palliative Care is right for you. Palliative Care is about planning how you want to live your life and manage your medical condition.

To learn more about Palliative Care at VA Butler Healthcare, talk with your Primary Care Provider, or contact VA Butler Healthcare's Palliative Care Coordinator at 724.285.2763 or 800.362.8262, ext 2763.

-  butler.va.gov
-  facebook.com/VAButlerPA
-  twitter.com/VAButlerPA
-  talkshoe.com/tc/85029

Palliative Care



A continuum of comfort and support services

VA Butler Healthcare
325 New Castle Road
Butler, PA 16001
800.362.8262
724.287.4781

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Providing comfort and support

Palliative Care is a plan of care that aims to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for Veterans and their families. It focuses on **comfort for Veterans experiencing distressful symptoms** of a serious, complex, chronic illness or from treatment for an illness. Palliative Care concentrates on preventing or reducing discomfort rather than reversing the progression of the disease.

Palliative Care is *similar* to hospice in that the focus is on helping Veterans and families live as well as they can with their diagnosis. It is *different* from hospice in that there is no time limit based on life expectancy. Palliative Care can be provided **right along with other medical care** used to cure an illness or prolong life.

Palliative Care represents a continuum of comfort and support services provided in the **home, as an outpatient, or an inpatient setting**. Palliative Care may be provided from the time an illness is diagnosed or during distressful symptoms of the illness (which can be years), through hospice and bereavement care.



A Palliative Care plan is typically introduced when a Veteran is diagnosed with a **chronic health condition that cannot be cured**.

Palliative Care may be appropriate if:

- Diagnosed with a life-limiting, complex, chronic or advanced disease
- Experiencing distressful symptoms from treatment for an illness
- Frequenting the ER or off-schedule primary care visits
- Multiple hospitalizations for the same symptoms
- Living alone or with a caregiver who is also experiencing illness (poor support system)
- Declining in ability to perform activities of daily living; need increased assistance of another person
- Treatment for an illness is no longer effective in alleviating symptoms
- Assistance is needed to establish goals for care
- Help is needed in advance care planning, including completing *Advance Directives*
- Caregiver is overwhelmed by care needed
- Hospice admission criteria is met

Palliative Care Services

- Pain and symptom management
- Education (so Veterans and families can make informed health care decisions)
- Help with establishing goals of care
- Advance care planning, including completion of *Advance Directives & Healthcare Power of Attorney*
- Emotional, spiritual, and psychosocial support for Veterans and families
- Assistance in obtaining needed durable medical equipment and supplies
- Guidance in obtaining needed VA and community home services

Palliative Care Team

VA Butler Healthcare's Palliative Care Team is **here for YOU**. We are here to assist and support you and your family. The Palliative Care Team consists of:

- ★ Primary Care Provider
- ★ Palliative Care Coordinator
- ★ Registered Nurse
- ★ Social Worker
- ★ Chaplain
- ★ Psychologist
- ★ Community Health Nurse
- ★ Admission Coordinator

