

Is Palliative Care Right for Me?

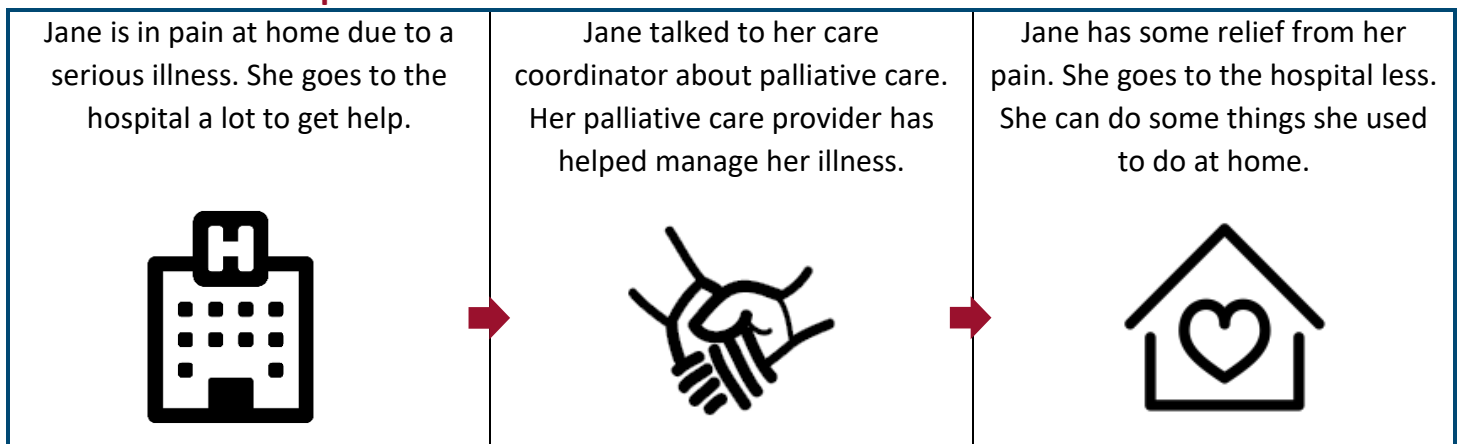


What is palliative care?

Palliative care is specialized medical care for members with serious illnesses such as heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Alzheimer’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease and many more. This type of care is focused on providing you with **relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness**.

A palliative care provider will work to understand your goals of care. For example, your goal may be to stay home and avoid going to the hospital for treatment. A palliative care provider can help you understand your treatment choices so you and your family can make the decisions that are best for you. The focus is planning care that meets **your wishes and values**.

Palliative Care Example



Do I qualify for palliative care?

Palliative care provides support and relief for people with serious illnesses and their families. If you are a South Carolina Healthy Connections Prime member suffering from a serious illness, you may qualify for palliative care services in Healthy Connections Prime. You can talk with your care coordinator to learn more. If you do not know your care coordinator’s phone number, you may call your plan’s member services line phone number on the back of your member ID card.

Is palliative care the same as hospice care?

No. Sometimes people confuse these terms but they are different services. Both services focus on comfort and relief, but palliative care can be provided **at any stage of a serious illness**, even while you are being treated with a goal of improvement and/or cure. The goal of palliative care is to improve the quality of life for the patient and the family.

How does palliative care work in Healthy Connections Prime? How much does it cost?

Palliative care is covered by Healthy Connections Prime **at no cost**, just like other medical services. Palliative care is typically provided by a healthcare team that may include doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and

other individuals who will work with your designated care team. Your palliative care provider will speak with you and your family about what matters most to you during your treatment. This provider will try to understand your pain, discomfort and other symptoms. Working with your care coordinator and other providers, the palliative care provider offers support to help improve quality of life for you and your family and caregivers.

Where can I find more information about palliative care?

If you are interested in more information about palliative care in Healthy Connections Prime, talk with your plan's care coordinator or call your plan's member services line. The member services line phone number can be found on the back your member ID card. You and your caregivers can also learn more at getpalliativecare.org.