

## Admission Criteria for Palliative Care

The Veteran and family or significant other understand and agree to Palliative Care as an alternative to more aggressive, invasive forms of treatment. A clinical member of Palliative Care Consultation Team will briefly discuss the range of services available to the patient and his or her family regarding Palliative Care services.

## Admission Criteria for Hospice Care

### Using Medicare Hospice Criteria:

A VA physician has determined the Veteran's life expectancy to be six months or less if the terminal illness runs its normal course.

The Veteran and/or family have treatment goals focused on comfort rather than cure.

The Veteran, family, or significant other have had the prognosis explained to them and have an understanding of the Veteran's condition. Advanced Directives are determined prior to admission.



### Admission Information:

**Susan Williams, RN**  
Case Manager  
781-687-2732

### Hospice Team

**Cindy Wolz, DNP**  
Palliative Care Coordinator  
781-687-2443

**Howard Nachamie, MD**

**Karen Budnick, LICSW, ACHP**  
Advanced Certified Hospice and  
Palliative Care Social Worker  
781-983-9170

**Kristen Dillon, PsyD**  
Clinical Psychologist  
Hospice and Palliative Care  
781-879-7846

# Palliative Care Services at Bedford VA



Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital

**BEDFORD VA**

200 Springs Road Bedford MA 01730

Telephone: 781-687-2000

Toll Free: 800-VETMED1  
or 800-838 6331



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## Purpose

The program provides for the coordination of comprehensive interdisciplinary care that optimizes quality of life and minimizes physical, psychological, and spiritual suffering associated with the dying process for patients and their families or significant others. It offers comfort rather than cure of the disease that is life-limiting and refractory to disease modifying treatment.



“You matter because you are. You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die”



## Palliative and Hospice Team

- Palliative Care Coordinator
- Bereavement Counselors
- Dentist
- Dietician
- Occupational Therapist
- Chaplain
- Pharmacist
- Physicians
- Physical Therapist
- Psychologist
- Recreational Therapist
- Registered Nurses
- Registered Nurse Practitioner
- Rehabilitation Medicine Specialist
- Social Workers
- Volunteers

*-Dame Cecily  
Sanders*

## Policy

The Hospice and Palliative Care Program provides a Palliative Care approach to the care of eligible Veterans who have a diagnosed terminal illness and a projected limited life span. The program focuses on the management of distressing symptoms including pain, provision of psychosocial and spiritual support, and the application of comfort measures as an alternative to aggressive treatments.

