# Palliative Care Provider (MD, PA, and NP) Onboarding Curriculum

This Learning Pathway contains recommended clinical training for new providers on the specialty palliative care team.

### Introduction to Palliative Care for Health Professionals

An introduction to palliative care, how it is delivered, its impact on quality of life, and the growing population of patients who need it.

## Pain Management

### Course 1: Comprehensive Pain Assessment

Conducting a comprehensive pain assessment to guide safe and effective treatment.

### Course 2: Matching the Drug Class to the Pain

Selecting a safe and appropriate analgesic for patients with serious illness based on the pain assessment.

### Course 3: Patient Factors that Influence Prescribing Decisions

Patient and family factors that influence prescribing decisions for patients with serious illness.

### Course 4: Assessing Risk for Opioid Substance Use Disorder

Integrating routine risk assessment for substance use disorder when considering or using opioid therapy.

### Course 5: Opioid Trials: Determining Design, Efficacy, and Safety

Designing a safe and effective opioid trial for the patient with serious illness.

### Course 6: Prescribing An Opioid

Safe and appropriate opioid prescribing for the opioid-naive patient with serious illness.

### Course 7: Prescribing Short-Acting Opioids: Four Case Studies

Four indications for using short-acting opioids.

### Course 8: Monitoring for Opioid Efficacy, Side Effects, and Substance Use Disorder
Ongoing evaluation of opioid benefits, risks, and side effects for the patient with serious illness.

### Course 9: Converting from Short-Acting to Long-Acting Opioids
Guidance on safe conversion to long-acting opioids for patients with serious illness.

### Course 10: Prescribing Practice and Opioid Conversions
Prescribing practice for long half-life opioids, converting from one opioid to another, and accounting for incomplete cross-tolerance.

### Course 11: Advanced Conversions and Opioid Side Effects
Changing the route of opioid delivery, rotating opioids, advanced opioid conversions, and tapering opioids.

### Course 12: Special Populations And Patient-Controlled Analgesia
Safe opioid prescribing in older adults, cognitively impaired patients, children, and the imminently dying, including patient-controlled analgesia.

### Course 13: Managing Pain in Patients At Risk for Substance Use Disorder
Pain management for patients with serious illness and high risk for substance use disorder, including risk assessment, monitoring, and when to refer for safe pain management.

### Course 14: Pain Management: Putting it All Together
Safe opioid prescribing for patients with serious illness, using the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Guidelines for the Chronic Use of Opioid Analgesics.

## Symptom Management

### Nausea and Vomiting in Patients with Serious Illness
Nausea and vomiting are common symptoms of serious illness, and can cause dangerous complications. Take this online course to learn practical skills to identify, manage, and reduce these symptoms.

### Dyspnea in Patients with Serious Illness
Take this online course to learn how to manage dyspnea, including the physical causes of shortness of breath and the emotional impact on the patient.

### Constipation in Patients with Serious Illness
Constipation occurs in at least 70% of patients living with a serious illness and often goes unrecognized. Take this online course to learn critical skills to identify and manage the impact of constipation.

### Anxiety in Patients with Serious Illness
Take this online course to learn evidence-based strategies to identify and treat anxiety in patients with a serious illness.

### Depression in Patients with Serious Illness
This online course teaches how to accurately identify and treat depression in patients living with a serious illness.

## Communication Skills

### Discussing Serious News
Learn best practices for having patient-centered conversations about a serious illness diagnosis.

### Discussing Prognosis With Patients and Caregivers
Learn how to effectively discuss prognosis with patients and their caregivers.

### Clarifying Patient Goals of Care
Learn best practices for building trust, eliciting patient values, and having patient-centered conversations about goals of care.

### Leading a Patient and Caregiver Meeting
Learn to effectively lead meetings that help patients and caregivers become aligned around the patient's goals.

### Care Planning
Learn techniques to help patients and their caregivers plan for the future, both during the early stages of a serious illness and as a disease progresses.

## Best Practices in Dementia Care and Caregiver Support

### Discussing Your Patient's Dementia Diagnosis
Disclosing a dementia diagnosis to patients and caregivers in a way that is sensitive, clear, and supportive.

### Communicating About What to Expect as Dementia Progresses
Helping patients and caregivers understand challenges they may face as dementia worsens.

### Planning for the Future with People Living with Dementia
Enabling patients and caregivers to plan ahead for the financial, legal, and other impacts of dementia.

### Supporting the Caregivers of People Living with Dementia
Assessing for caregiver burden and connecting caregivers to needed support systems.

### Understanding and Responding to Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia
Strategies for understanding and addressing the sources of behavioral symptoms for people living with dementia.

### Mood and Sleep Disturbances in People Living with Dementia
Addressing common sources of suffering for people living with dementia.

### Critical Decisions in Advanced Dementia
Addressing common sources of suffering for people living with advanced dementia.

## Relief of Suffering Across the Disease Trajectory

### Relieving Suffering in Patients with Dementia, and Their Caregivers
Online course for identifying and addressing the sources of suffering for patients and families living with dementia.

## Managing Gaps in Care: Discipline-Specific Approaches

### A Palliative Approach to Care for Direct Care Workers
The role of the direct care worker in observing and reporting suffering in patients with serious illness.

## Preventing Crises Through Whole-Patient Care

### Supporting the Family Caregiver: The Burden of Serious Illness
Assessing and supporting caregivers of people with serious illness.

### Care Coordination
Guidance for all clinicians on improving communication and ensuring smooth transitions of care for patients living with serious illness.

### Reducing Risks for Older Adults

This course provides context and best practices for identifying older adults at risk for poor outcomes, including falls, delirium, and caregiving challenges.

## Building Physician Skills in Basic Advance Care Planning

### Basic Advance Care Planning: Introduce and Motivate

Identify the role of physicians and advanced practitioners in introducing patients to ACP.

### Basic Advance Care Planning: Guide and Document

Build physicians' and advanced practitioners' skills in guiding and documenting ACP conversations.

### Beyond the Conversation: Integrating Basic Advance Care Planning into Practice

Ways for physicians and advanced practitioners to integrate and bill for ACP in their practice.

View this page online

You must be logged in to have have full access to these resources. Not sure if you have a CAPC account? Check here to create one.