As the number of Americans living with serious illness has increased, so has the penetration of palliative care in U.S. hospitals. Based on need, not prognosis, palliative care teams provide complex communication and symptom management for people living with serious illness. This saves the primary clinician time, matches patient goals to treatment options, and better coordinates care. Following are the results of the most recent analysis of the top referrals to palliative care.
48% of all palliative care referrals came from hospitalists.

Most referrals (44%) came from medical/surgical units.

Analyses were based on the 2018–2019 National Palliative Care Registry™ dataset. Analyses were limited to hospital palliative care programs in the United States that were not pediatric-specific palliative care programs. Response rates varied by question.
Top Primary Diagnosis Groups (n=297)

Nearly a quarter of palliative care patients had a primary diagnosis of cancer.

Analyses were based on the 2018–2019 National Palliative Care Registry™ dataset. Analyses were limited to hospital palliative care programs in the United States that were not pediatric-specific palliative care programs. Response rates varied by question.