

Palliative Care

- Whole-person, person-centered care for anyone living with a serious illness.
 - Focuses on quality of life by addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
 - Helps manage symptoms such as pain, breathlessness, fatigue, and anxiety.
 - Supports patients and families with communication and informed decision-making.
 - Can be provided **at any age** and **at any stage**, alongside curative or disease-directed treatments.
 - **Broader than hospice:** it applies far earlier and to many more people.
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Hospice

- **All hospice is palliative care**, but palliative care extends well beyond hospice.
 - Hospice can refer to:
 - **A philosophy of care** focused on comfort near the end of life.
 - **A place** where end-of-life care is provided.
 - **A service agency** that delivers hospice care at home or in facilities.
 - **An insurance benefit** (e.g., Medicare Hospice Benefit) with defined eligibility.
 - Typically offered when life expectancy is months rather than years.
 - Emphasizes comfort, dignity, and support for both the individual and their family.
 - Delivered by an interdisciplinary team—often in the person's home.
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Simple Distinction

- **Palliative Care:** A broad, comprehensive approach to quality of life during serious illness.
- **Hospice:** A specific type of palliative care for the final phase of life.