Palliative care

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11809

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

LAST REVIEWED
2020-02-29

DATE
2015-10-03

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism

CMA POLICY

PALLIATIVE CARE

Introduction
Palliative care is an approach that aims to improve the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem of a life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.

General principles
1. It is part of total health care delivery through the health care system.
2. It should be provided as an independent and inter-disciplinary approach to the patient, family and the health care provider.
3. It is a commitment to the patient and family in all situations, regardless of age, sex, race, social or economic status, physical and psychological condition, and course of disease.
4. The goals of palliative care are to relieve suffering, provide support to the patient and family, and enhance quality of life.
5. The patient’s care is based on the patient’s own values and preferences.
6. The patient is an active participant in the decision-making process.
7. The patient’s care is based on the interdisciplinary team consisting of physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and other professionals.
8. The patient’s care is based on the patient’s own needs and goals.

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