

# Can you *reasonably* expect...



## ...your patient to survive the next twelve months?

This is an important question for physicians who have patients with progressive, life-limiting conditions. The answer will help identify patients for whom palliative care is a more appropriate treatment option.

Indications of decline due to progression of disease such as decreasing levels of activity, an expressed decision to discontinue active treatment, or repeated emergency hospital admissions are all important considerations. Specific conditions such as chronic kidney disease, heart disease, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease can also help you determine if palliative care is appropriate for your patient.

If you reasonably conclude that a patient's twelve-month survival is not expected, it is time for you to have a very important conversation with them regarding their treatment options, including the benefits of palliative care.

Don't delay palliative care for a patient with serious illness who has physical, psychological, social or spiritual distress because they are pursuing disease-directed treatment. Numerous studies—including randomized trials—provide evidence that palliative care improves pain and symptom control, improves family satisfaction with care, and reduces costs. Palliative care does not accelerate death, and may prolong life in selected populations.

To refer a patient to a palliative care program, please contact one of the following:

- Home Connections (Erie County)  
716-989- 2475
- Pathways (Niagara County)  
716-439-4417, Option 3
- CMP Social Work  
716-862-2125



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