

Community Care Access Centre

Backgrounder



Nurse Practitioners – Palliative Care

Palliative Nurse Practitioners (NPs) at the North East CCAC is a complementary service to other palliative care initiatives in our region. Palliative Nurse Practitioners help coordinate specialized end of life care in a patient's home and help facilitate dying with dignity at home and/or transition to hospice care. Palliative NPs collaborate with physician partners, nurses, hospices and other health care providers to coordinate, treat and manage each patient's individual medical needs. The ultimate goal of the program is to enhance and strengthen community based palliative care across the North East.

What you need to know:

- The North East CCAC hired five NPs who will focus on palliative care in the following communities: Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Timmins, Kirkland Lake/Temiskaming Shores, and North Bay. Upon referral by a NE CCAC Care Coordinator, Palliative NPs provide direct hospice care to CCAC patients who do not have a primary care provider. For those patients who do have a primary care provider, the NP will work collaboratively with the provider, and help provide palliative pain and symptom management consultation.
- The focus of the service is to support community health care providers and provide palliative consultation in order assist with End of Life care in the community. The NP provides medical care that helps to ensure patient safety, comfort and quality of life in their home or a hospice setting, as well as preventing Emergency Department visits and/or hospitalizations.
- CCAC Palliative NPs will:
 - Support CCAC Care Coordinators in care planning for patients with palliative care needs,
 - Collaborate with home care nurses, physicians and primary care providers to ensure continuity of medical/clinical care for individuals with complex palliative needs at each transition point in the patient's care,
 - Ensure all facets of the patient's care – including palliative pain and symptom management and primary care needs – are working together while continuing care in home or the community, and,
 - Strengthen relationships with patients, family members and other caregivers through information sharing and support.

For more information or to schedule a presentation about the Nurse Practitioner Palliative service, please call the North East CCAC at (705) 522-3460, and speak with Melissa Pretty, ext. 4544.