The goal of the PANDA Palliative Care Team is to partner with patients, families, and the primary care team to develop a collaborative plan of care that will meet the needs and goals of the child and family. The team focuses on comfort and quality of life for patients and works alongside the primary health care team while they focus on the treatment of underlying illnesses.

We strive to ease the burden of difficult illnesses, using a family-centered approach that promotes healing and comfort. We treat children and family members as integral parts of the care team and remain involved in the consultation process to help each family maximize the quality of each day.

The PANDA Palliative Care Team provides support for issues that are commonly faced by children with advanced illnesses and their families such as complex decision-making, promoting comfort and quality of life, pain and symptom management, hospice and home care, family support, school interventions and spiritual concerns. The team is committed to supporting the child and family during the hospitalization and beyond.

**How To Reach Us**

To speak with a member of the PANDA Palliative Care Team, ask your doctor or nurse to make a referral.

or

We can be reached at (202) 476-4256 or by emailing: palliativecare@childrensnational.org
The PANDA Palliative Care Team at Children’s National Health System is a team of medical professionals who work with primary healthcare team members to provide extra supports for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with serious illnesses and their families. We work to prevent, reduce, and soothe suffering, and to help patients and their families cope with the stress of dealing with complicated medical problems.

**How We Can Help**

- Achieving optimal quality of life for patients
- Supporting effective communication between the patient, family and members of the primary health care team
- Helping families understand a child’s prognosis and treatment side effects
- Recognizing and treating symptoms early
- Relieving pain and suffering
- Determining discharge options and planning for care at home
- Providing integrative and alternative therapies such as massage, acupuncture, and aromatherapy to improve pain and manage symptoms
- Assisting with spiritual and ethical concerns
- Supporting siblings and extended family members

**Who We Can Help**

Palliative care services are available to children prenatally to young adults with any life-threatening condition and their families. Families may request assistance from the PANDA Palliative Care Team at any time during their child’s illness, even if they are not currently receiving inpatient services at the hospital.

**Who Is On Our Team**

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Chaplains
- Child Life Specialists
- Volunteers
- Expressive Therapists
- Integrative Medicine Providers
- Psychologists

Want More Information?
www.getpalliativecare.org