



## **Information for Staff**

### **What is the Pediatric Advanced Care Team?**

The Pediatric Advanced Care Team is the new name for the Palliative Care Consulting Service. It includes more than, and is not limited to, end-of-life care. Palliative care is comprehensive and coordinated and includes physical, emotional, logistical, social, and spiritual care. It is appropriate to begin palliative care at the time of diagnosis of any potentially life-limiting condition. It is similar to hospice care's interdisciplinary approach, but it can be provided at any time in a child's disease progression, even in conjunction with curative treatment.

### **Which children are appropriate?**

Any child who has a potentially life limiting condition, including:

- those who are born without an expectation of survival to adulthood
- those who acquire illnesses such as cancer
- those who suffer trauma
- those vulnerable and susceptible to life-limiting complications

### **How can the Pediatric Advanced Care Team help you take care of your patients?**

The Pediatric Advanced Care Team can:

- Assist communication between family, all involved hospital services, and outside providers.
- Facilitate care conferences using the structure called the Decision-Making Tool. This process can help with any decisions – including medical care, discharge, implementation of home services, advance discussions about end-of-life care, and others.
- Schedule these meetings and disseminate a written record of the meeting.
- Provide resources for community services/supports including, but not limited to, hospice.
- Help you problem solve transitions, e.g. discussing alternatives to aggressive care in the face of declining function, advance directives and code status.
- Assist you when you are talking to families about end-of-life issues, providing support for anticipatory grief, etc.
- Provide support and education to health care professionals.

### **How can the Pediatric Advanced Care Team help your patients and families?**

The Pediatric Advanced Care Team can:

- Maximize family involvement in decision making and care planning.
- Provide support to children and families as they cope with the multiple losses associated with life-threatening conditions.
- Facilitate continuity of care across care settings, both within and outside the hospital.
- Arrange for care coordination at home, provided by a palliative care nurse.



**How do you make a referral?**

Have a low threshold for requesting assistance. Call with any questions regarding a referral or the possible ways in which we might offer assistance. Call the Pediatric Advanced Care Team office at 987-4751. Consultants are available 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday. You can have a preliminary discussion with a consultant or immediately access our services for your patient.