

# The Pediatric Palliative Care Program

Supportive care for children living with serious illness



Each year many Vermont families learn their child has a life-threatening illness. To support these families, Vermont Medicaid offers a special program for medically eligible children up to the age of 21

## What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care provides an added layer of support for children and adolescents living with serious illness. It helps make sure your values as a family are at the heart of your child's care. Palliative care services can help ease pain and other stressful symptoms related to a condition or treatment at any stage of illness. These services can be provided along with other treatments your child is receiving.

Palliative care can help your child feel better and assist with challenges such as:

- ✓ Pain
- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Sleeping problems or fatigue
- ✓ Loss of appetite
- ✓ Depression, fear, or anxiety
- ✓ Decision making
- ✓ Managing your child's healthcare
- ✓ Planning for the future
- ✓ Sibling and family support
- ✓ Caring for your child at home

## Who is eligible for the Pediatric Palliative Care Program (PPCP)?

Vermont Medicaid beneficiaries less than 21 years old, who are living with a life-threatening illness that may affect life expectancy.

## What services does the PPCP provide?

- ✓ **Care Coordination.** Coordination of care by a home health palliative care nurse, who will help you navigate the network of providers and services involved in your child's care.
- ✓ **Family/Caregiver Training.** Educational support and guidance provided by an experienced nurse, so you feel comfortable and confident with your child's care.
- ✓ **Expressive Therapy.** Play, Music, Movement or Art therapy for your child, provided by a certified therapist or visits by a child life specialist to support your child through their experience.
- ✓ **Family Grief Support.** Therapeutic support for families to help cope with their child's illness and bereavement counseling if needed.
- ✓ **Skilled Respite Care.** Short-term relief by a skilled nursing professional, so caregivers can have a break. \*\*Check with PPCP provider for availability.

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## How do I enroll ?


Ask your child's primary care provider to complete a PPCP Referral Form. If your child is eligible, the Nurse Case Manager from the PPCP will contact you to schedule a visit and determine which services are available in your area and best fit your needs.

## Who provides the PPCP services?

PPCP services are provided by staff at regional Home Health Agencies who have undergone special training in caring for children with palliative care needs and their families.

## Questions?

Please call the PPCP Nurse Program Coordinator at (802) 865-1312.



The Pediatric Palliative Care Program  
can help.