

UAB Inpatient Palliative Care Consultation

Inpatient palliative care consults are available throughout UAB Hospital and Highlands Hospital 7 days per week. Primary teams place consult orders into the electronic medical record which are triaged by the Palliative Care Coordinator (PCC). Top reasons for consultation include complex symptom management, assessment of patient and family-centered goals of care, and assistance with transition in patient care location. Once triaged by the PCC the consultations are given to one of two teams who are usually able to respond on the same day or within 24 hours after discussing with primary consulting team and chart review, etc.

The consultation teams are staffed by Board certified physicians and advanced practice providers (APP) as well as learners at various levels including medical and nursing students, residents and fellows. Once a consultation is complete, the full evaluation along with assessment and recommendations are recorded into the medical record for the primary team. Consults for palliative care at UAB Hospital are by consultation from a medical provider, however a family or other team member may request a consult through an attending physician. Each consultation team works to engage and coordinate with essential interdisciplinary team members throughout the hospital including social work and case management, chaplaincy, music therapy, animal assisted therapy, rehab therapies, and Arts in Medicine as appropriate throughout the patient's stay. When needed, a consultation team can partner with other specialty services such as Ethics, Interventional Pain, Radiation Oncology or others to provide care.

Ambulatory Palliative Care patients in our Supportive Care Clinic are automatically tracked during hospitalization and seen by the consult service if necessary. Patients on the consultation service are discussed regularly each week and in daily team huddles. Interdisciplinary team members such as social work and pastoral care from the units in which the patient currently is admitted are invited to be involved in the patients care as needed.

Annually, our team completes around 1900 consults on hospital patients throughout UAB Hospital and UAB Highlands.