Let's Talk About...

# Palliative care

## What is palliative care?

Palliative care is a special type of care that can help prevent and relieve suffering when a child may be at the end of life. Even though palliative care is provided to children that may be near the end of life, your child can also receive palliative care while undergoing treatments that cure illness. The goal of palliative care is to provide the best possible quality of life for children and their families.

Palliative care will help you and your child live to the fullest, even if there is a limited amount of time to be together. The palliative care team will work with you and your child to ease your child's pain and other symptoms. The palliative care team can also help you and your child with social, emotional, and spiritual needs.

If death is certain, the palliative care team can help your child die with dignity and as little distress as possible. The palliative care team will support your family through the grief process.

## How can the Palliative Care Team help my child and my family?

- Help gather information so that you have all the information you need to make decisions about your child's care
- Help you and your child talk with your healthcare team
- Provide relief for your child from pain and suffering
- Provide a safe setting so you and your child can talk about your thoughts and feelings
- Provide spiritual care to you and your child
- Provide you and your family with support if your child dies

## Rainbow Kids Palliative Care Program

The Rainbow Kids Palliative Care Program at Primary Children's Medical Center includes a doctor, nurse practitioner, nurse, social worker, and chaplain. All these people have special training to care for children with a life-limiting illness.

If you want to know more about the Rainbow Kids Palliative Care Program at Primary Children's Medical Center, please talk with your child's doctor, nurse, or social worker.

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