

Let's Talk About...

Pediatric Palliative Care

Palliative care is a special type of care centered around the patient and family. The goal of palliative care is to provide the best quality of life for children and their families. Palliative care anticipates and addresses physical, emotional, social, and spiritual suffering. Children with complex chronic conditions and life limiting conditions can receive palliative care. Palliative care can start at the time of diagnosis and continue through death and mourning. Your child can receive palliative care while undergoing treatments that cure illness. A team of people provides palliative care. The team includes doctors, nurse practitioners, social workers, interfaith chaplains, and a nurse coordinator. These team members have special training, experience, compassion and understanding to work with you and your healthcare teams to find the path that is best for your child and family.

Rainbow Kids Palliative Care team at Primary Children's Hospital is here to offer comfort and support to your child and family each step of the way, wherever the path may lead.

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

- Gather information you need to make the best decisions for your child and family.
- Help you and your child talk with your healthcare team, family members, and your child's siblings.

- Help your healthcare team decrease pain and other uncomfortable symptoms for your child, especially towards the end of life.
- Support you and your child and family along your path, providing a non-judgmental place to share thoughts and feelings.
- Help your family connect with your faith group or with specific religious practices, such as blessings and baptisms.
- Support with end of life care and mourning.

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