

# Referring Your Patient to Hospice Palliative Care In-patient Services Bruyère Palliative Care Unit and Hospice Care Ottawa

## What is hospice palliative care?

Palliative care uses an interdisciplinary approach with the goal to improve quality of life for patients and their families who are facing symptoms associated with a life-limiting illness (cancer or non-cancer). Palliative care helps patients achieve the best possible quality of life and through the management of symptoms and integrates the psychosocial and spiritual aspects of patient care.

## Who should be referred to hospice palliative care?

### **Required Admission Criteria:**

- Must have a life-limiting illness
- AND
- No longer require intensive treatments such as curative intent IV chemotherapy, curative radiation therapy, complex diagnostic investigations (i.e. MRI or CT) or surgical consultations
- AND have at least one of the following
  - Active symptoms requiring continued daily medication titration or daily physician assessments
  - Require continued symptom control post procedural intervention
  - Approaching end of life with care needs that cannot be met in the community such as nursing or personal care needs that exceed what is provided by the LHIN Home and Community Care.
  - Have psychosocial, emotional and family needs that are best supported by an inpatient team

## What is the difference between Bruyère Palliative Care Unit and Hospice Care Ottawa residences?

*Hospice Care Ottawa patients must meet the admission criteria above AND also have:*

- A Palliative Performance Scale equal to or less than 40% or ECOG of 3-4 (average length of stay at hospice is approximately 2-3 weeks)
- A documented Do No Resuscitate (DNR) order in place.

*Bruyère's Palliative Care Unit patients must meet the admission criteria above and*

- Require short-term symptom management across the illness trajectory and/or for end of life care.
- A Palliative Performance Scale is not a requirement for Admission to the PCU. The length of stay will vary from days to weeks based on a patient's needs and medical complexity (Average length of stay on the PCU is 18 days)
- Do not require a DNR order in place, but it is expected the majority of patients will have either DNR order or goals of care discussion clearly documented on the application outlining the patient's agreement to a conservative medical approach focusing on symptom management, comfort and improving quality of life.

## What are the exclusion criteria for Bruyère Palliative Care Unit and Hospice Care Ottawa?

- Patients requiring 1:1 care or monitoring
- Need for blood warmer
- Some High Flow Oxygen requirements using equipment such as MAXTECH
- Bariatric Patients weighing more than 350 lbs.

*Bruyère's Palliative Care Unit and Hospice Care Ottawa support Ontario's Home First Philosophy where discharges to the community with family and community support is explored when the clinical team determines the patient's care needs can be met in that setting or the patient requests to return to the community.*

## How do I refer?

Any registered healthcare provider can submit an Inpatient Hospice and Palliative Care referral to the Central Referral and Triage (CRT) team. CRT is a partnership between Bruyère Continuing Care, LHIN Home and Community Care and Hospice Care Ottawa, this central intake team triages all referrals submitted for inpatient hospice palliative care in Ottawa.



[www.bruyere.org/en/palliative\\_admission](http://www.bruyere.org/en/palliative_admission)

[www.hospicecareottawa.ca/i-am-a-health-care-provider](http://www.hospicecareottawa.ca/i-am-a-health-care-provider)

For any additional questions contact The Central Referral and Triage Team  
613-562-6262 ext. 1688

## Process for urgent after-hours admissions for community referrals

*Includes Emergency Department and Outpatient Cancer Clinics for which no application has been submitted:*

### Bruyère's Palliative Care Unit

Any day of the week after 16:00 and on weekends, the referring physician should contact Bruyère telecommunications at 613-562-6262 and request the on-call staff MD for Palliative Care be paged. The referring physician will discuss details of the case with the on-call Palliative Care MD to determine if an urgent admission is warranted.

### Hospice Care Ottawa

Any day of the week after 16:00 and on weekends, the referring physician should contact the on-call Nurse by calling 613-422-4974. The referring Physician will discuss details of the case with the on-call Nurse to determine if an urgent admission is warranted.

## Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

The professional completing the application must identify when a referred patient has requested Medical Assistance in Dying with details on the status of the request.

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## Bruyère's Palliative Care Unit:

Patients admitted to Bruyère will be supported with high quality palliative care with supports for their family throughout the end-of-life journey. The patient must be aware that Medical Assistance in Dying is not provided on site at Bruyère and they will need to be transferred elsewhere for the procedure.

## Hospice Care Ottawa:

Patients admitted to Hospice Care Ottawa will be provided quality palliative care along with supports for their family throughout the end-of-life journey. While Hospice Care Ottawa does not consider Medical Assistance in Dying as part of their philosophy of care, as of September 2020 MAiD is allowed to be provided by outside healthcare providers within its premises. Hospice Care Ottawa will accept patients who are considering MAiD or who are proceeding through the legal steps to obtain MAiD – in the same way it welcomes all palliative care patients. Patients will not be admitted for the sole purpose of receiving MAiD.