

Decision Tree for Palliative Care Service (PCS) Consultation

Patient with serious life-limiting illness
Initial assessment by Primary Team

Formal PCS consultation not needed

Symptoms controlled / Goals of care clear, however ...

- Hospice referral / discharge coordination needed
- Assistance with referrals to community resource/psychosocial support only needed

Place SW consult for assigned team SW to coordinate and follow-up

Formal PCS consultation needed

- Poorly controlled pain/non-pain symptom(s)
- Psychosocial and/or spiritual symptom(s)
- Unclear goals of care // Patient and/or family distress

Palliative Care Consultation Criteria (based on Center to Advance Palliative Care [CAPC])

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New diagnosis of life-limiting illness for symptom control, patient/family support• Progressive metastatic cancer• Patient or family psychological or spiritual/existential distress• Difficult-to-control physical or emotional symptoms• Unclear goals of care• Patient, family, or physician uncertainty regarding prognosis• Patient, family, or [team]* uncertainty regarding appropriateness of treatment• Conflict in DNR order/status (e.g., between team & patient/family or family members)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient or family requests for futile care options• Conflicts or uncertainty regarding the use of non-oral feeding/hydration in cognitively impaired, seriously ill, or dying patients• Limited social support in setting of a serious illness (e.g., homeless, no family or friends, chronic mental illness, overwhelmed family caregivers)• Patient, family, or physician request for information regarding hospice appropriateness• Patient/family request for palliative care services*
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*Change or addition made by ZSFGH Palliative Care Service

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