

Handout 1-2

Principals of Palliative Care

Holistic Care: meeting physical, psychological, social, and spiritual expectations and needs of the person and his/her family with sensitivity to personal, cultural and religious values, beliefs and practices.

Unit of Care: As the individual defines it.

Information is a Right: it is the individual's right to be informed about his/her disease, potential treatments and outcomes, appropriate resources and options. It is the family and caregiver's right to be informed about the disease, potential treatments and outcomes, appropriate resources and options, respecting the individual's right to confidentiality

Choice is a right: decisions are made by the individual and family in collaboration with caregivers, respecting the level of participation desired by the individual and family. The individual's and family's choices for care, setting of care and information sharing are respected within the limits of available resources

Access to Care and Information: individuals and families have timely access to information and services provided by Palliative Care when they need and are prepared to accept them. Information and care is provided in a language they can understand. Essential Palliative Care services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Equal Availability of Services without Discrimination: services are equally available to all regardless of age, gender, national and ethnic origin, geographical location, race, color, language, creed, religion, sexual orientation, diagnosis, disability, availability of a primary caregiver, ability to pay, criminal conviction or family status

Ethics and Confidentiality: care is provided in accordance with principles of ethics, including confidentiality

Interdisciplinary Team: care is provided by an interdisciplinary team of caregivers working collaboratively with the individual and family

Continuity of Care: a coordinated, continuous plan of care incorporation minimal duplication is maintained across all settings of care, from admission of the individual to bereavement support for the family

Taken from: Palliative Care: towards a consensus in standardized principles of practice
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