Referral to Supportive and Palliative Care Trigger List

Supportive and palliative care provides attention and education to patients and their families and facilitates communication between you, your patients, and their families.

Consider palliative care if:

1. You would not be surprised if this patient died within the next two years
   
   OR

2. Your patient has an advanced primary disease process, including:
   - Metastatic or stage IV cancer
   - Severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or congestive heart failure
   - Oxygen-dependent pulmonary disease
   - Uncontrolled symptoms: pain; dyspnea; cough; nausea/vomiting; insomnia; anxiety/agitation
   - Functional dependence in greater than three activities of daily living
   - Worsening cognitive dysfunction or escalating dementia
   - Status post stroke with decreased function
   - End-stage renal disease
   - Chronic progressive disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis with limited function)
   - Advanced liver disease
   - Diabetes with multiple co-morbidities
   - Three or more emergency room visits in six months
   - Three or more hospital admissions in six months
   - Albumin level less than 2.5

Implement palliative care in the presence of:

- Chronic, complex or life threatening illness/condition, AND
- Conflicts regarding nutrition/hydration in cognitively impaired, seriously ill or dying patients, and/or unclear goals of care

What you can do:

1. Go to [theconversationproject.org](http://theconversationproject.org)

2. Decide:
   - When is it time to talk?
   - Who should be with you? Who should be with the patient?
   - What are the goals of care?

Contact us:

For more information or to refer a patient, call 1-877-878-8785, option 2.