

# Fact Sheet

## Advanced Disease

### Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders Center

*Call the Social Worker for additional information and resources (312-503-4397).*

#### **What is Palliative Care?**

*(World Health Organization)*

Palliative care is an approach which improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing life-threatening illness, through the prevention, assessment and treatment of pain and other physical, psychosocial and spiritual problems.

#### **Why Palliative Care?**

92 percent of the American public are highly likely to consider palliative care for themselves or their families if they have a serious illness. (National Palliative Care Research Center). It is about improving quality of life “throughout the continuum of illness.” Palliative care is an essential component of a comprehensive package of care

- Addresses a variety of symptoms: pain, constipation, shortness of breath, nausea, weakness, fatigue, depression, and confusion.
- Palliative care is an important means of relieving symptoms that result in undue suffering and frequent visits to the hospital or clinic.

#### **Palliative Care in the community**

- Cadence (CNS), Carol Stream IL; (630) 665-7006
- Horizon Hospice and Palliative, Chicago IL; (312) 733-8900
- Midwest Hospice and Palliative, Glenview IL; (847) 467-7423
- Palos Community, Lemont IL; (630) 257-1111
- Rainbow Hospice, Park Ridge IL; (847) 692-8899

#### **Resources**

##### Aging with Dignity's Five Wishes program

[www.agingwithdignity.org](http://www.agingwithdignity.org)

A national non-profit organization, whose mission is to affirm and safeguard the human dignity of individuals as they age and to promote better care for those near the end of life. Introduced in 1997, Five Wishes is now available in 23 languages.

##### National Palliative Care and Hospice Organization (NHPCO)

<http://www.nhpco.org>

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