

# CARE FOR ADVANCED CANCER

Cancer is a disease that occurs when abnormal cells divide without control and damage other parts of the body. There are more than 100 types of cancers.

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If cancer returns or recurs, it may be in an advanced stage and can have an even more serious impact on your health. You may have different goals for care when dealing with advanced cancer, and these goals may change over time. Rather than a cure or remission, your goal may be to control the growth of the cancer and improve your quality of life through palliative care.

## About Palliative Care

Palliative care is comfort care you can receive from the time of diagnosis through all stages of your cancer. The goal of palliative care is to prevent or treat, as early as possible, the symptoms and side effects of cancer and its treatment. These include physical, emotional, and spiritual problems. Families may

also receive and benefit from palliative care because of the physical and emotional impact of caring for a loved one who is seriously ill.

People can have palliative care in addition to treatments to destroy or stop the growth of cancer. A palliative care team can help you and your family deal with treatments or prepare for the changes that may occur, if the cancer cannot be controlled. Research shows that palliative care may help you and your family's health and well-being. "Family" can be people related to us and those we choose to call family.

