

PRESENTING YOUR CASE TO YOUR FAMILY AND PHYSICIAN

Part-3

NECESSITY: In order to obtain care and necessary medications in today's health system, you will likely need to be declared "palliative" by one of your personal physicians. The declaration will need to be recorded in your medical record.

ALL CONCERNED PARTIES MUST BE INFORMED

All patients and families who have an incurable/palliative condition must first determine and agree that they have an incurable condition and recognize the need for palliative care. For example, all patients in palliative care and their family must inform their pharmacy, laboratory, and care providers they are in palliative care. Most IPS patients need palliative care and meet the necessary requirements to be declared as palliative.

HOW ARE YOU DECLARED PALLIATIVE?

One of your doctors needs to simply write into your medical record the name of your incurable disease, and that treatment will focus on symptom management, comfort, and quality of life. There is no requirement to state how long you may live.

DOCUMENTATION

The only required documentation is a written chart note in your medical record by a licensed physician in your state. This is like a simple process to authorize a handicapped parking sign for your car, or a note approving absence from work. You will need to state the specific name of your incurable disease and that you are in palliative, rather than curative care.

EXAMPLE OF PHYSICIAN DECLARATION:

<u>PALLIATIVE CARE DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Patient's Name _____	
Specific Disease _____	
I declare this patient has the above incurable, potentially life-shortening disease and requires palliative care.	
_____	_____
Physician Signature	Date

NOTIFICATION OF KEY PARTIES

Once your physician has declared you to be in "palliative care," notify key parties in your care including your pharmacy, laboratory, specialist physicians, and insurance company.

REFERENCES: Kellerman RD, Rakel DP. Palliative Care. *Conn's Current Therapy 2020*. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier 2020:43-49.
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