

Growth of Palliative Care in U.S. Hospitals

2014 Snapshot

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. It focuses on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness—whatever the diagnosis. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists, who work together with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and can be provided along with curative treatment.

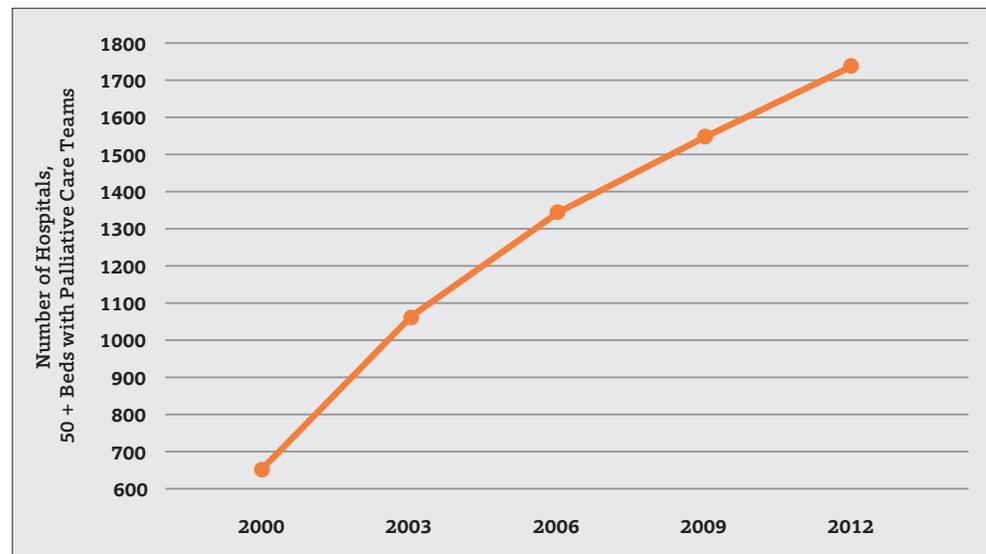
Palliative care improves health care quality in three significant ways:

- Effectively relieves physical and emotional suffering
- Strengthens patient-family-physician communication and decision making
- Ensures well-coordinated care across health care settings

ACCESS TO PALLIATIVE CARE IN THE U.S.

Prevalence of Palliative Care (2000–2012) in U.S. Hospitals with 50 or More Beds

—●— Prevalence



Source: Center to Advance Palliative Care, July 2014

Palliative care prevalence in U.S. hospitals has increased 164% over the past 12 years, to 61% of hospitals with 50 or more beds. In 2000, less than one-quarter of these hospitals (658) had a palliative care program, compared with more than two-thirds (1,734) in 2012. If current trends continue, by 2015, eight in ten U.S. hospitals with 50 or more beds will have a palliative care program.

Sources: For this analysis, we used data from:

- The FY 2002- 2012 AHA Annual Survey Databases. Chicago, IL: Health Forum, an American Hospital Association affiliate
- The National Palliative Care Registry™ and Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), as of July 2014.

Methodology: This analysis was conducted in July 2014. Hospitals self-reporting the presence of a palliative care program within four categories—hospital, health system, network, or joint venture—were included in the analysis. Hospitals creating a profile in The National Palliative Care Registry™ are included in the FY 2008–2012 figures, regardless of their response to the AHA Annual Survey.

The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) (www.capc.org, www.getpalliativecare.org) and the National Palliative Care Research Center (www.npcrc.org) are affiliated with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and are dedicated to increasing quality palliative care services for people facing serious illness.

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