**Palliative Care Physician at ALS Clinic**
Authors: Jennifer Cohen, MD    Jane Coppola, RN, MHAL

**Project Description**
In March 2016 Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center initiated a multidisciplinary ALS Clinic that includes a Neurologist, PT, OT, Dietician, Speech/Language Therapist (SLT), MSW, Respiratory Therapist (RT), and a Palliative Care Physician. Patients benefit from palliative care expertise throughout the course of their illness as they receive disease trajectory education, symptom management, life care planning, and emotional support. The vision of the clinic is to provide patients living with ALS and their families access to much needed support by providing comprehensive services and compassionate care during one appointment.

**Workflow**
- ALS patients invited to clinic
- Clinical team has a pre-clinic huddle to discuss patients.
- RT sees patient and tests pulmonary function as needed. Provide equipment.
- SLT and Dietician see patient.
- OT and PT see patient.
- Neurologist and Palliative Care doctor see patient.
- Clinical team meets for debrief and post conference meeting.

**Summary**
- 80 – 100 patients service area living with ALS.
- To date 100 patients seen in clinic.
- Team members double up to avoid assessment duplication.
- Previously had to travel 50+ miles to attend regional ALS Clinic.
- 20 – 30 patients actively participating in clinic.
- Hospice referrals when appropriate
- Future state: MSW presence in Clinic.

**Voice of the Customer**
- “I prefer to see one provider at a time.”
- “I feel supported by the team.”
- “I like the multidisciplinary approach.”
- “Some days are really long.”