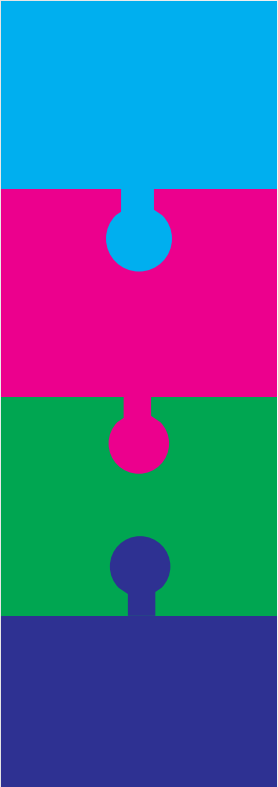




Palliative Care Fact of the Month

Elements of an Early Palliative Approach to Care

#AnyAgeAnyStage



Illness Comprehension and Coping – What is the patient’s understanding of the illness, the trajectory, and prognosis? How is the patient and family coping with the impact of a life-limiting diagnosis?

Symptoms and Functional Status – What are the current and anticipated emotional, physical, spiritual, and psychosocial symptoms? Has the patient experienced a change in function?

Advance Care Planning and Decision Making – How does the patient approach future decision making? Is the patient and family future-oriented, or do they prefer to live in the moment? Do the ACP documents reflect the patient’s wishes for care, including when they would decide to stop certain treatments?

Coordination of Care – Who does what? Ensure every need is met, and make referrals as needed. Clarify who is responsible for each “piece of the puzzle”!

These elements promote patient and family centred care *throughout* the patient’s journey. It includes the whole care team - not just in one appointment or one care provider.