



Division of Palliative Medicine

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Date: _____

Re: Patient name: _____

Date of birth: _____

CR# _____

Dear Dr. _____,

We have been asked to see your patient at the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario Palliative Care Clinic.

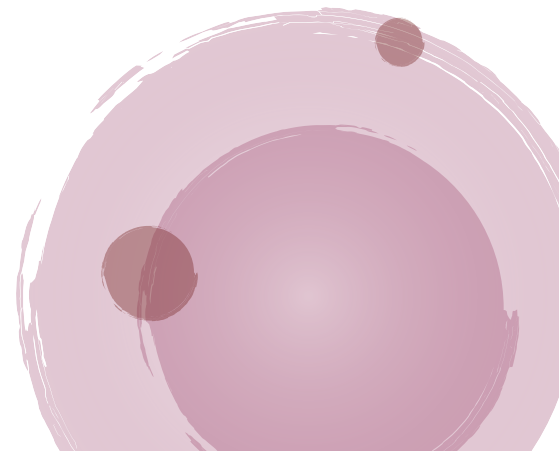
In order to foster collaborative care and ongoing communication, we are writing to confirm how you would like us to be involved in your patient's care. We have identified different care options on the attached form. **Please indicate your preference by completing, signing, and faxing it back to us at 613-548-2361.**

Thank you for providing this information. If you have questions about your patient's palliative care needs or would like advice on symptom management in advance of our initial consultation, you can reach one of our palliative care physicians at 613-548-2485.

As this letter is a pilot intervention aimed at improving communication between primary care and specialist palliative care teams, we have also attached an optional 1-minute survey about the perceived usefulness of this intervention. Thank you for providing this information. We look forward to working with you in whatever capacity works best for you and your patient.

Sincerely,

Queen's Palliative Medicine Team





Primary care provider: _____

Re: Patient name: _____ **Date of birth:** _____

My preference for the Queen's Palliative Medicine Team's involvement in this patient's care is (please check preferred option):

Option 1: Ongoing consultative care

I would like the Queen's Palliative Medicine team to see the patient in consultation and provide support for as long as needed to optimize symptoms and care plans for their palliative care needs (the Queen's team will bill G512 for the period that they are responsible for managing the patient's palliative care). Once the patient's symptoms and care plans have been stabilized, I will take over responsibility for provision of primary palliative care and be the primary contact for the patient and family (i.e. I will now bill G512). Thereafter, I understand that I may call the Queen's Palliative Medicine Team 24/7 for advice and reassessment of the patient if something changes.

Note: If a patient has complex needs that require ongoing specialist palliative support, the Queen's Palliative Medicine Team will continue to follow the patient with the primary care team for as long as needed, including providing in-home consults when a patient is no longer ambulatory. I understand that I will still be the patient's primary care provider.

Option 2: One-time consultation

I would like the Queen's Palliative Medicine team to provide a one-time consultation with recommendations for optimizing my patient's palliative care needs. Afterwards, I will provide ongoing primary palliative care for my patient. I understand that I may call the Queen's Palliative Medicine Team 24/7 for advice and reassessment of the patient if something changes.

Option 3: No need for specialist palliative care consultation

I am able to meet the palliative care needs of my patient and a specialist palliative care consultation is not needed at this time. I understand that I may call the Queen's Palliative Medicine Team at any time for formal or informal advice, and the patient can be re-referred should a consultation become necessary in the future.

Option 4: None of the above

None of these options fit my circumstance. I would like to speak with a Queen's Palliative Medicine physician to discuss this further.

I can be best reached by:

Phone: _____

Office

Mobile

Email: _____

Signature

Please complete this form and fax it back to us at 613-548-2361



Please find below an optional survey with 5 statements. Please select how you feel about each statement:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Prior to this intervention, I felt left out of the conversation when oncologists directly referred to the specialist palliative care team					
With this intervention, I feel better informed about the options for collaborative palliative care for my patients					
This intervention will help to create an individualized care plan for this patient's palliative care needs					
With this intervention, I feel more confident providing care for this patient as part of a shared-care model					
This intervention will help to build capacity for primary palliative care in the region					

Comments:

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the survey! Your feedback is much appreciated.

Please complete this form and fax it back to us at 613-548-2361



Additional Information About Our Team

Our specialist palliative care team sees ambulatory patients at the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario (CCSEO) and in our outreach clinic at Quinte Health Centre (QHC). We provide consultative support for cancer-related symptom management and care planning, and offer palliative procedures such as therapeutic paracentesis at our CCSEO site.

We follow patients as long as needed to optimize symptoms and we work closely with a patient's oncology and primary care teams who provide ongoing cancer-based and primary care. Our nurse navigator supports a symptom triage line that patients, families and healthcare professionals can call during working hours. After hours, primary care providers can call the palliative medicine physician on call for formal or informal advice.

When patients with ongoing or intermittent need for specialist palliative care supports become homebound, our Community Consult team can continue to provide home-based assessments (in person or virtual, depending on patient location) as needed. The patient's family physician remains the patient's primary care provider.

When necessary, our team provides direct admissions to Kingston General Hospital for patients seen in our program with complex palliative symptom management issues requiring acute care supports. We also provide direct admission to the palliative care unit (PCU) at Providence Care Hospital for patients at end of life whose comfort-focused care needs cannot be managed in their home setting.

For more information about the Queen's palliative medicine program, please visit our website at <https://deptmed.queensu.ca/divisions/palliative-medicine/clinical>

