Palliative Care is a type of health care that focuses on a philosophy of care that aims to provide comfort and quality of life for individuals and families facing a life-limiting non-curative illness. Palliative Care does not take place within four walls, services and support are provided for people where they are living - hospitals, personal care homes and in your own home by a variety of caregivers. Palliative Care helps individuals to achieve the best possible quality of life right up until the end of life.
Palliative care is provided by a variety of compassionate caregivers including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, home care workers, spiritual care, families, friends and volunteers. The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority palliative care team members provide end of life care and include:

**Palliative Care Nurse Specialists**
- Referral intake, approval and registration on the Palliative Care Drug Access Program
- Collaborate with your care provider; physician or nurse practitioner. Provides assessment and ongoing management of pain and other symptoms

**Psychosocial Specialists**
- Provide emotional and social support for individuals registered on program and their family
- Caregiver grief and bereavement support

**Palliative Care Medical Consult**
- During business hours Monday—Friday available to all nurse practitioners and medical doctors in our region.

**Volunteer Coordinator & Community Liaison**
- Provides training and education to community and supports volunteers
- Coordinates volunteer and client visits

**Volunteers**
- Offer companionship and provide services such as social visits, letter writing, errands and short periods of relief for family members in client’s home or a facility.

**How are palliative care services received?**

The Palliative Care Program works closely with your current care providers in your home (Home Care) or if you are in the hospital or a Personal Care Home.

Palliative Care is an approach to care that is shared by all health care professionals, referrals are made by the Doctor or Nurse Practitioner when the individual requires specialist care (pain & symptom management, psychosocial consultation) and the individual is no longer seeking curative treatment for a life limiting illness.

**Goals**

Raise awareness that palliative care focuses on assisting individuals to live as fully as possible until the end of life.

Improve quality of life through relief of pain and management of symptoms for clients with serious or life limiting illness in order to improve the time they have left with their family and loved ones.

Support the families and caregivers of the clients we serve.

Assist clients in gaining access to community resources.

Provide education to health care partners, patients, families and community at large about palliative care and the care of the dying.

Collaborate with other health care professionals across all programs. It is every medical professionals responsibility to provide a palliative approach to care.