



# The Wishard Health Services Palliative Care Program

## What is Palliative Care?

Palliative Care is a growing medical specialty which concentrates on providing treatment to reduce the severity of symptoms and improve the quality of life for patients with life-limiting illnesses. For those suffering from chronic or terminal conditions, palliative care programs provide care centered on the needs of patients and their families. This includes treatment to limit pain and suffering, to improve quality of life, and to alleviate psychological and spiritual distress. In addition, palliative care provides bereavement services to the patient's family and friends.

## Palliative Care at Wishard Health Services

Wishard's Palliative Care Program was created in 1999 to help patients who have been diagnosed with life-limiting or terminal illnesses. The Program's multidisciplinary team consists of physicians, nurses, social workers, a spiritual advisor and volunteers. Our multi-disciplinary team offers a holistic, comprehensive and compassionate approach. Our team bridges the gap when patients move from the hospital to home and then back again. We work with local hospice programs and area nursing homes to ensure a smooth transition between settings.

As the recipient of both the National Association of Public Hospitals 2005 Jim Wright Vulnerable Populations Award and the American Hospital Association's 2009 Circle of Life Award, the Palliative Care Program at Wishard is nationally recognized for its innovative programs and outstanding service. Having now cared for over 3,000 patients over the past ten years, the Program strives to expand the depth and breath of the services that it offers.