

PAIN MANAGEMENT

How is palliative care different from hospice care?

People often equate palliative care with hospice, but they are not the same.

Hospice is a type of palliative care

“Hospice is one type of palliative care, but palliative care involves much more,” said Janelle Jambrosic, M.D., who is a board certified hospice and palliative care physician as well as a board certified anesthesiologist.

While hospice care is for patients whose doctors believe they have six months or less to live, and who are no longer being treated to cure their disease, palliative care

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Dr. Emil Annabi,
 Chief Medical Director,
 Pima Pain Center

is for patients with serious illness but who are still in treatment and may have many years of life ahead. Both focus on the whole patient and their quality of life.

How palliative care helps

Patients who have

chronic pain from cancer, for example, but are not at an end-of-life stage, may experience side effects from their chemotherapy or radiation treatments such as nausea, vomiting and mouth ulcers, as well as anxiety and depression that serious illness can cause, Jambrosic

explained.

Palliative care physicians communicate with the patient’s family doctor, oncologist, psychiatrist and other physicians treating the patient, all working as a team to solve medication issues, pain, side effects and anything affecting the patient’s quality of life.

They prescribe treatments for new pain or problems, talk with patients’ families, and provide resources to help patients make decisions that work for them.

For information about palliative care, contact Pima Pain Center at 520-399-6000.