

Advocating For Palliative Care



**“...I will take care that they
suffer no hurt or damage.”**

Hippocratic Oath, 410 BC

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"Why Palliative Care?"



**There are ethical imperatives to
reduce unnecessary suffering**

Ethical Imperatives



- **Justice**
- **Autonomy**
- **Beneficence**
- **Malfeasance**

“First, do no harm”



**Care that has no possibility
of achieving a good is harm**

Goals Of Care



Relieve suffering and restore a patient's life

Limits Of Care



**Treating is not the same as relieving
Being alive is not the same as having a life**

Competence vs Care



There is an ethical limit to competence

Limits of Competence



- **Futile Care**
- **Hospital-Dependent**
- **Chronic Critical Illness**

Futile Care



**Overtreatment is as unethical
as under treatment**

Hospital-Dependent Patient



How do we care for patients who cannot live outside of the hospital?

Chronic Critical Illness



**How to treat a problem
caused by medical treatment?**

The Unspoken Reason



Poor Communication

Summing Up



- 1. Palliative Care has ethical imperatives**
- 2. Clinical Competence has an ethical limit**
- 3. Palliative Care prevents needless suffering**
- 4. Palliative Care gets doctors and patients talking**

Thank You



“Avoid all treatments that only pamper disease.”

Hippocrates, Prognostics, 410 BC