

Eight Domains of Palliative Care

In 2004, The National Consensus Project identified eight domains as the framework for *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care**. The eight domains (with a brief description) are as follows:

Structure and Processes of Care -interdisciplinary team assessment based on patient/family *goals of care*; *prognosis*; *disposition* (level of care – inpatient unit, home); *safety*

Physical Aspects of Care – pain, dyspnea, nausea/vomiting, fatigue, constipation, performance status, medical diagnoses, medications (add/wean/titrate)

Psychological Aspects of Care – anxiety, depression, delirium, cognitive impairment; stress, anticipatory grief, coping strategies; pharm/non-pharm treatment; patient/family grief/bereavement;

Social Aspects of Care – family/friend communication/interaction/support; caregiver crisis

Spiritual Aspects of Care – spiritual/religious/existential; hopes/fears; forgiveness;

Cultural Aspects of Care – language, ritual, dietary, other.

Care of the Imminently Dying – presence; recognition and communication to patient/family education/normalization; prognosis (eg hours to days; very few days; etc)

Ethical & Legal Aspects of Care – decision maker; advance directives

* <http://www.nationalconsensusproject.org/guideline.pdf>