Children’s Supportive Care Team
(Pediatric Palliative Care)

What is palliative care? It’s an approach that focuses on improving the quality of life of patients and their families facing life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual. It is the active total care of the child’s body, mind and spirit, and also involves giving support to the family. It begins when illness is diagnosed, and continues regardless of whether or not a child receives treatment directed at the disease. (WHO definition, 1998)

Children’s Supportive Care Team:
- Core team members: Diane Yorke, PNP (nurse practitioner and team coordinator) Elisabeth Dellon, MD (physician and medical director), Mary Beth Grimley, PhD (child psychologist)
- Inpatient consult service with weekday and daytime availability
- Available to all seriously ill hospitalized children with needs in the areas of symptom management, complex decision-making, parent/sibling support, end of life planning, and bereavement care for families
- Goals: (1) To compliment care provided by primary team and other consultants, (2) to facilitate provision of care that meets the goals and wishes of seriously ill children and their families, (3) to offer support and education to providers caring for seriously ill children, (4) to improve patient/family and staff satisfaction
- Partnership with existing providers: existing medical teams, social work/clinical care management, rec therapy, pastoral care, pediatric pain team (anesthesia), Hospital Ethics Committee, UNC Palliative Care Program (adult palliative care service), Ronald McDonald House, etc.
- Parent advisory committee
- Coordination of palliative care education for all disciplines
- Collaboration with Duke Quality of Life Service for clinical and educational activities
- Longer term goals: demonstration of decrease in ICU days for pediatric patients at end of life and cost reduction through shorter lengths of stay and lower ancillary and pharmacy expenses, expansion to outpatient setting to enhance continuity of care, collaboration with area hospice programs, participation in pediatric palliative care research network
- Contact us: Email cscareteam@unc.edu or pager 216-6793
  - Individual email addresses: Diane Yorke (dyorke@email.unc.edu); Elisabeth Dellon (epdellon@med.unc.edu), Mary Beth Grimley (mgrimley@med.unc.edu)

NC Children’s Hospital Pediatric Palliative Care Committee: Interdisciplinary committee established to provide education for patients, families, and staff and to develop a clinical service
- PPC vision statement: Our vision is to lead in the provision of family centered palliative care, to teach the practices and principles of palliative care based on compassion and research, and to demonstrate a model of care that is interdisciplinary and addresses the physical, spiritual, developmental and emotional needs of children and their families.
- Monthly meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7-8 am – please join us!
- Co-chairs: Ken Steenson (ksteenso@unch.unc.edu) and Ashley Fannin (afannin@unch.unc.edu)