



# Hospice Highlights

## **What is Palliative Care?**

By Diana Wood

Many people may wonder what the difference is between 'Hospice Care,' and 'Palliative Care.' At one time they were two separate models of care however the face of Palliative Care is changing. Not so long ago a person going into Palliative Care had to be within the last six months of life. These days in Canada at least, we use the term Hospice Palliative Care (HPC) which generally starts at the time of a serious diagnosis and carries on to the end of life. Its approach is aimed at optimizing quality of life while mitigating suffering.

In BC, even though a patient is classed as palliative, there

are some concessions. For example, some medications to relieve symptoms such as pain, nausea, shortness of breath, fatigue, insomnia etc, are covered by Pharmacare which wouldn't otherwise be covered.

HPC services also include education on how to provide or assist with care as well as referrals to available services like volunteers and counselling.

When caring for a loved one at home, being on the HPC Program entitles them to medical supplies such as wound dressings, incontinence supplies, and mouth care swabs. They can also access free loan equipment such as a hospital bed, mobility aides, commodes, etc. Community

Health Workers provide assistance with personal care and meal preparation along with respite for the caregiver. Home care nurses will come to the home to dispense medications and offer advice and support.

The role of the Terrace Hospice Society is to provide trained volunteers to be involved from the time of diagnosis through to the end of life by providing visiting volunteers for shut-ins, respite for caregivers and grief support for family and friends.

For more information call 250-635-4811

If you keep these in the back of your mind  
you will always be prepared for the unexpected.



**Terrace Hospice Society**

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