10 Myths ABOUT PALLIATIVE CARE

National Hospice Palliative Care Week | May 4–11, 2019

Test your knowledge about hospice palliative care myths throughout the week on Facebook (@CanadianHospicePalliativeCare) and on Twitter (@CanadianHPCAssn) using the hashtag #BustingtheMyths

Myth 1: Palliative care is only about pain control
Palliative care includes psychological, social, emotional, spiritual, care giver support and practical support.

Myth 2: I’m not ready to receive palliative care
89% of people with life-limiting illness, such as a progressive neurological illness, organ failure, or frailty could benefit from palliative care.

Myth 3: My physician hasn’t mentioned it to me, so I must not need it
Patients can initiate conversations with health care teams related to hospice palliative care.

Myth 4: My community doesn’t have a hospice so I can’t access hospice palliative care
Palliative care can be provided at home, in a long term care facility, hospice or hospital.

Myth 5: Receiving palliative care means I’ve admitted defeat
Palliative care is for any one at any stage of their illness, aimed at improving quality of life for patients and their families.

Myth 6: I’m too young to receive palliative care
Hospice palliative care is provided to people of all ages from infancy to adulthood.

Myth 7: Palliative care is a location, not a resource
Hospice palliative care is a service that can be provided in many settings, including the patients’ home.

Myth 8: Talking about dying causes stress for my loved ones
A cultural shift in how we talk about death and dying is required to facilitate acceptance and understanding of what palliative care is and how it can positively impact people’s lives.

Myth 9: Palliative care is only for patients near the end of their lives
Palliative care benefits patients and families from diagnosis until end of life.

Myth 10: Children cannot receive hospice palliative care
Children need care that is appropriate to their condition/illness, their size, age, understanding of their conditions and its implications, and their spiritual and emotional awareness.

For more information, please visit: www.chpca.net/week