

Palliative Care Fund

Questions & Answers

1. WHAT IS THE PALLIATIVE CARE FUND?

The "Palliative Care Fund" has been designed to provide funding for the Cumberland Health Authority's (CHA) Palliative Care Program. It funds such things as equipment, services, training and a variety of other items required to enhance palliative care services for patients and their families.

2. WHAT IS THE "PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM"?

The CHA's Palliative Care Program provides a coordinated, multi-disciplinary team approach to support patients and their families who are dealing with a life-threatening illness. The program involves consultation nurses who spend their time both in hospital and in communities working as part of a team that includes a palliative care physician as well as pharmacists, social workers, home care workers, VON & pastoral care.

This team develops care plans to ensure appropriate services are in place with the goal of providing a combination of physical, psychological, spiritual and social care to individuals in their homes and in hospital. Consult nurses strive to provide expert level support to home care nurses and caregivers including pain and symptom management.

For those whose needs are too great to be met at home, staff work to facilitate a smooth transition from home to hospital.

3. WHO ADMINISTERS THE PALLIATIVE CARE FUND?

The Cumberland Health Care Foundation is responsible for the collection & receipting of all donations. Donations to the Palliative Care Fund support the Palliative Care Program at the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre and the CHA's Palliative Care Program in the community.

The Foundation then provides access to the fund through the Palliative Care Team.

4. WHO DECIDES ON WHO & WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

A funding application form is completed by the requesting Palliative Care Team member and is then reviewed by the relevant departmental manager and Vice President of the CHA. This is to ensure that the item cannot be funded otherwise.

Based upon the availability of funding within the Palliative Care Fund, the item(s) to be funded is then submitted to the Cumberland Health Care Foundation for consideration. The Foundation has been fortunate to have been able to grant the majority of all requests submitted due to the generosity of caring donors.

5. WHAT TYPES OF THINGS HAS THE PALLIATIVE CARE FUND PROVIDED IN THE PAST?

Due to donations made by naming the **Cumberland Health Care Foundation – Palliative Care Fund** as beneficiaries for in-memorials, special events held by community groups, and from general donations, we have been able to fund the following items.

- **2004-2005 Purchases = \$22,751:** Syringe Drivers, free-standing oxygen cylinder holders, Spanko mattress Pads, Spanko booties

- **2005-06 Purchases = \$10,950** Invacare Mattress, Patient & Family Recliners, PM-50 Pulse Oximeters, televisions, DVR/VCR & Entertainment Stands
- **2007-08 Purchases = \$1,485** lockboxes for syringe drivers
- **2008-09 Purchases = \$45,541** Syringe drivers & lockboxes, Versacare beds, Duo therapy mattresses, televisions & portable stands, lamps, dishes & sundries, Oxygen concentrators, patient-assist lift chairs
- **2009-10 Purchases approved to date = \$32,400** Sleeper Chairs, two additional Palliative Care beds, wheel chair comfort pads

6. ARE IN-MEMORIAM CARDS AVAILABLE?

Yes. In-Memoriam cards can be obtained from the Cumberland Health Care Foundation offices (main entrance of the hospital). If you so choose, the Foundation will also mail the card to the respective next of kin (address must be provided) to notify of a donation made in-memory.

Donations can also be made on-line at www.chcfoundation.com. Directions can be given for sending a card to the next-of-kin or loved one and the message you would like to have relayed.

If you donate directly at a funeral home, you will receive a generic In-Memoriam card for usage from the funeral home. Please specify that you wish the donation to go to the Palliative Care Fund of the Cumberland Health Care Foundation. The Cumberland Health Care Foundation will receive a listing of donations made, the total amount of monies received and will then issue the charitable receipt involved for each donor.

7. How much of my personal donation actually goes to the Palliative Care Fund verses to administrative costs?

- **In-Memoriams** = 100% of the donation amount received
- **General donations** made in person, on-line, by telephone, or sent by mail = 100% of the donation amount received.
- **Community special events** = if you are attending a special event hosted in support of Palliative Care then it would be anticipated that the net income of the event (gross sales less expenses) would be donated to the Palliative Care Fund. You should clarify this with the organizers of the event being held. If you are seeking a charitable receipt for your donation, you should ask the organizer directly how this is going to be addressed.
- **Direct mail campaigns**= the Foundation targets to have costs of 20% or less in all its direct-mail programs to be in alignment with charitable industry standards.

8. HOW CAN I DONATE TO HELP?

Donations can be made in several ways. If you wish to make a donation using a credit card (VISA, Mastercard or Amex) – please call (902) 667-5400 extension 6210 or visit the www.chcfoundation.website and select the “donate now” button.

If you are making a donation by cheque or money order, please make it payable to:

the Cumberland Health Care Foundation

(please note that it is for the “Palliative Care Fund” as this restricts the donation solely for this purpose).

The donation can be mailed to: CHCF, 19428 Hwy 2 RR6, Amherst NS B4H 1N6 or dropped off at the Cumberland Health Care Foundation offices located just inside the Main Entrance of the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre.