



*It's not how much we give,
but how much love we put into giving*
MOTHER TERESA

Perinatal and Pediatric Palliative Care Program

Palliative Care

Palliative care is specialized medical care supported by an interdisciplinary team that cares for both perinatal and pediatric patients. Perinatal palliative care helps families who receive a life limiting prenatal diagnosis. Our team will provide guidance at the time of diagnosis to assist families with the difficult choices.

Care continues during the pregnancy, the birth of the child focusing on quality of life and comfort to include physical and psychosocial support. Our pediatric palliative care program works with children and families with life threatening or chronic illness. The focus is on wellness with the goal of improving quality of life.

Palliative care provides an extra layer of support in partnership and collaboration with the family and primary care provider from prenatal diagnoses to young adults. Palliative care will support a patient and family for a few days or many years and is not limited to the last few days of life.

Additional Staff, Community Outreach and Volunteers

Our team is supported by community volunteers of professionals and bereaved parents. These volunteers enhance our program immensely by their input and guidance in assisting families going through difficult times. Organizations in the community also assist families coping with having a child with life limiting illness and end of life issues.

The Palliative Care team has access to Child Life Services to assist with patient and sibling support issues. We have a pastoral care volunteer to assist staff and patients in working through illness and death through their expertise in religious and spiritual issues.



Bereavement Services

Bereavement services are provided through the palliative care team as we realize that the death of a loved one is a devastating loss. Through bereavement counseling families do not have to learn to cope with the difficult feelings and emotions alone. Our services are available for parents, siblings and extended family.

Reach us

Our team is available for consults Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm. Please call our *Perinatal and Pediatric Palliative Care Program* at **732-923-7716**.

Services

- ⚓ Palliative Care Consultation
- ⚓ Pain and Symptom Management
- ⚓ Education and Counseling
- ⚓ Facilitating Communication between patient, family and primary care team
- ⚓ Goals of Care Discussions and Advance Care Planning
- ⚓ Coordination of Care
- ⚓ Psychosocial and Spiritual Support
- ⚓ Bereavement Services
- ⚓ Birth Planning
- ⚓ Memory Making
- ⚓ Peer Support

Palliative Care Team

Margaret C. Fisher, MD

- Medical Director, Unterberg Children's Hospital

Susan Hudome, MD

- Medical Director, NICU, Monmouth Medical Center
- Certificate, Palliative Care Education and Practice (PCEP), Harvard Medical School

Robert A. Graebe, MD

- Chairman and Program Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Director, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Susan Dulczak, MSN, PNP-BC, CPON

- Clinical Director and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Valerie Center and Pediatric Medical Day Stay
- Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center
- ELNEC (*End of Life Nursing Education Consortium*) Trainer
- Member, Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association

Maria Graminski, LCSW

- Palliative Care Social Worker
- ELNEC Trained
- Member, Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network

Sheryl Dwyer, BSN, RNC-OB, CPLC, CBC, Bereavement Support, Labor and Delivery

- Resolve Through Sharing (RTS) Bereavement Coordinator
- Certified in Perinatal Loss Care
- ELNEC Trained
- Member, Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association

NICU and Pediatric Palliative Care Champions

Tricia Lamberti, RN.C

- Assistant Clinical Director of Reginal Newborn Center at Monmouth Medical Center

The Unterberg Children's Hospital

