

ARE YOU IN PALLIATIVE OR CURATIVE CARE?

Part 1 of 4

If you are in medical treatment for a chronic disease, you are either in curative or palliative (incurable) care. Every IPS patient, their family, and physicians need to be very clear as to which category you are in-palliative or curative. Why? If you aren't in palliative care, you may be restricted from obtaining certain drugs, dosages, and financial benefits you need for your well-being. A major reason that IPS patients can't get the help they need is because they have not made the determination and been declared to be in palliative care. This chronicle and the next three that follow, must be carefully reviewed, and action must likely be taken if you believe you should be in palliative (incurable) care.

WHAT IS CURATIVE CARE?

Curative care is treatment that is focused on resolving a specific disease or disorder that is causing symptoms such as pain, fatigue, depression, or physical impairments. Treatment can be directed either at total or partial cure of the disease or disorder.

WHAT IS PALLIATIVE CARE?

Palliative care is symptomatic treatment to provide relief and quality of life. It is also to hopefully prevent an incurable disease or disorder from worsening and causing complications.

There are two yearly reference books, published for physicians so they can quickly look up the latest on diagnosis and treatment. Their definitions of palliative care are given here to help all parties know which care-palliative or curative -best fits, any given patient.

DEFINITION IN "CURRENT MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT"-2021-PAGE 70

"Palliative care is medical care focused on improving quality of life for people living with serious illness. Serious illness is defined as "a condition that carries a high risk of mortality, negatively impacts quality of life and daily function and/or is burdensome in symptoms, treatments and caregiver stress."

DEFINITION IN "CURRENT THERAPY"-2020-PAGE 43

"Palliative care is treatment that is focused on pain and symptom management as well as quality of life for patients and their families. It can be rendered at any point in the course of treatment of illness, whether that illness is life threatening or not."

FIRST OBLIGATION OF IPS PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

Each IPS patient and family needs to determine whether their treatment needs to be palliative or curative. While everyone would like a cure, this may not be practical or possible. What evidence is there or experience that tells you that you can achieve some cure? It may be depressing to know that a complete cure is not possible, but you must face reality. Keep in mind that an incurable disease and pain doesn't have to keep you from having a meaningful, productive, and good quality of life.

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4931 W. Central, Wichita, KS, 67212 Phone: 626-716-2689 Fax: 316-260-4077*

E-mail: tennantfoundation92@gmail.com www.arachnoiditishope.com www.intractablepainsyndrome.com

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