

The Pediatric Palliative Care Program (PPCP) is a Medicaid program for medically eligible children living with life threatening illness. The program is composed of 5 core services that children can access at the same time as other treatments they may be receiving. Starting as a pilot in Chittenden County in August 2012, the program underwent strategic roll out in counties as capacity to provide services was built and Home Health Agencies prepared for implementation. As of October 2013, PPCP services became available statewide. The PPCP is an Agency of Human Services (AHS) partnership between the Vermont Chronic Care Initiative (VCCI) within state Medicaid and Integrated Family Services (IFS).

Services are authorized based on need and eligibility of each child and family:

1. **Care Coordination** – Development, oversight and implementation of a family-centered care plan that includes telephonic and home visits; and ongoing provider communication.
2. **Family Training** – Training by a nurse to teach family members and caregivers palliative care principals, medical treatment regimen, medical equipment use and how to provide in-home care.
3. **Expressive Therapies** – Therapies provided by certified art, music, play, or child life specialist to support the child to creatively and kinesthetically express their experience and cope with their illness.
4. **Skilled Respite** – Short term relief for caregiver relatives from the demanding responsibilities of caring for a sick child; provided by a skilled nurse based on medical need.
5. **Family Grief Counseling/Bereavement Counseling** – Anticipatory counseling for the child's family by a trained professional intended to address grief and coping both during the child's life and for up to 6 months in the event that the child passes away.
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Who is eligible to be enrolled in the PPCP? Children and adolescents eligible for the program are less than 21 years old, have Vermont Medicaid, live in Vermont, and are living with a serious life limiting illness from which they may not live into adulthood.



Is palliative care the same as hospice care? No. Palliative care is an added layer of support that can be involved at any stage of serious illness, whereas hospice care is provided near end of life.

When should a child be referred to the PPCP? Children should ideally be referred to the PPCP at the time of diagnosis so that supports are available and may be provided ongoing as needed; however children may be enrolled at any age or any stage of illness.

How is a PPCP referral made? A PPCP referral form should be completed by the primary health provider managing the child's medical care.

Contact Information

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