



When you arrive at the Centre for your first visit, please go to the Reception Desk and one of our volunteers will help you start the registration process. A registration/booking clerk will review your insurance card, personal and health information with you. Because you may need additional tests or specific treatments while in our care, you will also be asked to sign a consent form.

Meeting Your Treatment Team

Symptom Assessment

After registration and before every visit with your oncologist we will ask you to complete a symptom assessment at special computers. The assessment is also called “ESAS” (ee-sas) or the Edmonton Symptom Assessment System. The assessment asks you to rate how you are feeling on that day. We will ask you to tell us if you are having (or how much you are having) pain, tiredness, drowsiness, nausea, lack of appetite, shortness of breath, depression, anxiety, and how well you feel. Symptom assessment is a Cancer Care Ontario standard of care across the province that helps you tell us how you are feeling.

We will use the symptom assessment results to track how you feel before you start, during your course of treatments and after your cancer treatment is finished. Volunteers can show you how to use the assessment computers. Please take the printed results with you when you see the oncologist.

Your Oncologist and Primary Nurse

After you have completed your symptom assessment, you will be called into an examination room in the Clinic. Here you will meet the oncologist (cancer doctor) and primary nurse who will lead your medical team at the Centre. Your first visit with them will be at least one hour and you may be sent for more tests and/or procedures.

The oncologist will review all your medical reports, explain more about your illness, and talk with you about what treatment, if any, is necessary. The Centre offers chemotherapy (drug treatment), radiation therapy and emotional, physical and social supportive care services. Remember, if something is not clear or you have concerns, ask questions.

Also at the first visit, you may be asked to think about being involved in a clinical trial or a research study. These are done to test various cancer treatments, but you would only be involved in one if you agreed to it.



While you are waiting, this binder can help you learn about the services we have or the organizations that help our patients and families during their treatment. Please turn to **page # 3.11** and also see **section 4**.

Our Patient Library is located next to the Cancer Centre entrance on Level 0. One of the Library staff or volunteers can help you borrow a book or video or help you search the Internet while you are here.

Contacting Your Oncologist or Primary Nurse

Your primary nurse will tell you how to contact him or her by telephone. When you call, make sure you leave your name, telephone number, and a brief message. Since your nurse is busy seeing other patients each day, a telephone clerk will answer your calls and forward messages to your nurse.

If your call is not urgent, your nurse will call you within 24-48 hours. If your situation is urgent, and it is outside the Centre's hours of operation, you can get medical attention at your local Emergency Room.

Your Treatment

There are two different types of treatment that we offer at the Centre. Your oncologist will describe the type that is best for your illness so you can make the best decisions about your care. Sometimes both kinds of treatment are used to treat cancer.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy (chemo) involves the use of drugs to damage cancer cells.

How the Drugs Work Against Cancer Cells

A cell is the smallest working part of your body, and each cell has a different function. All cells grow, take in food, have periods of rest, and divide to make new cells. Cancer cells develop the same way; however, they do not follow a normal pattern of growth.

Chemotherapy drugs stop cancer cells from dividing into more cancer cells, or stop them from growing.

Chemotherapy treatments are usually repeated over a period of months to damage as many cancer cells as possible. Sometimes your treatment will use only one chemotherapy drug, but it is more common to take several drugs that work together to kill cancer cells.



How the Drugs are Given to You

Your type of cancer and its location will determine what drugs you will need and how you take them. Some chemotherapy drugs are given as pills, to be taken by mouth; others may be injected into muscles; while others are injected directly into your veins. Drugs that are given by injection into a vein or through a catheter placed in a large vein, called a central line, are being given intravenously.

Your Medical Oncology Team

Many people work as a team, combining their skills to provide you with the best care possible. Your medical oncologist is a doctor who specializes in diagnosing cancer and treating it with chemotherapy. This doctor will decide what drugs will be used in your treatment and then closely follow how the drugs affect you. Your primary nurse is an important source of support and information for you. Your nurse can answer all your questions, whether they are about your treatment or how you can get educational and other support services.

Chemotherapy nurses have special training for giving chemotherapy treatments.

Pharmacists prepare the drugs you need for your treatment. They can help you understand any side effects or drug-related problems that might occur during treatment.

Dental Oncology services can help you reduce the side effects of some treatments. For more information about this service, please turn to **page # 3.8**.

Your treatment team also includes Supportive Care staff like an Aboriginal Patient Navigator, dietitians, a Medicine Lodge Keeper, a neuropsychologist, physiotherapists, social workers, and speech language pathologists. For more information about these services, please turn to **page # 3.11**.

Your Chemotherapy Treatment

If you're going to have chemotherapy pills, your primary nurse will explain how to use the medication and manage any side effects. You will then receive a prescription and will be able to take your drugs at home.

If your treatment involves injecting chemotherapy into your muscles or a vein, a chemotherapy nurse will explain this to you, administer the drugs, and discuss how you can manage any side effects that might occur. This type of chemotherapy treatment is normally given at the Cancer Centre, but **some** patients may be able to receive the remainder of their treatment at a community oncology clinic closer to home.

Treatment is currently available in Blind River, Bracebridge, Chapleau, Cochrane, Elliot Lake, Huntsville, Kapuskasing, Kirkland Lake, Mindemoya, New Liskeard, North Bay, Parry Sound, Sturgeon Falls, and



Timmins for certain kinds of drugs. Since the list of available sites may change, please ask your treatment team if treatment at a community oncology clinic is available to you.

Your treatment will not be on the same day that you see your oncologist. We will give you an appointment on another day for your chemotherapy. It can take anywhere from one to six hours for a treatment, depending on the drugs being used. For your first session, please bring one family member or a friend for company. Also, bring all of the drugs ordered by your oncologist.

Drug Access Coordinators

Your treatment plan may include drugs that are not paid for by the government or the Hospital. Our Drug Access Coordinators and social workers can give you advice and information on how to access financial assistance to help pay for your drugs.

Chemotherapy Education

We encourage you and your family members to attend a group chemotherapy teaching session. We offer weekly education sessions. You will learn about:

- How cancer develops
- How and why we use chemotherapy to treat cancer
- Your care while on treatment
- What happens when you finish your chemotherapy

Please call the Chemotherapy booking desk at **(705) 522-6237 ext. 2063** for more information and to register.

Your chemotherapy team will explain what to expect and how to take care of yourself as you go through all your treatments.

Managing Side Effects

Side effects can happen when people are taking any drug — even Aspirin. However, not all drugs cause obvious side effects, and not all people react in the same way. Whether or not you have side effects, and what they may be, will depend on what drug you are taking and how your body reacts. Primary and chemotherapy nurses can refer you to the appropriate team member to help you manage your side effects.

Remember, if you have questions or concerns, follow the instructions given to you by your primary nurse and leave a message with the telephone clerk. Allow 24-48 hours for your nurse to return your call, if your



question is not urgent. If it is an urgent situation at night or on the weekend, go to the Emergency Department of your local hospital. Take your drug information and your Chemotherapy Record with you, because they will need to know what drugs you are taking in order to treat you effectively.

If you need a refill of a drug that your oncologist ordered for you, please ask us several days before you run out of your drug to give us enough time to have the prescription ready for you.

Scheduling Your Clinic Appointments

Treatment appointments at the Cancer Centre are made in advance. Your blood lab work will be done about 3 hours before your clinic or chemotherapy appointment if you live outside the Sudbury area. If you live within the Sudbury area, we will ask you to come for your lab work the day before your treatment.

Please note:

- If you need to re-book your clinic appointment, please call our re-booking hotline at **1 (877) 240-0459**.
- If you need to rebook a chemotherapy appointment, you must call the telephone clerk who will speak with your primary nurse.
- If your chemotherapy treatment is longer than four hours, your appointment will be scheduled on a day other than your clinic appointment.

There is a lab for blood collection in the Cancer Centre. It is open from 7:15 to 3:15, Monday to Friday. The Centre and lab are closed on legal holiday days.

You will be asked to complete a symptom assessment before you see your oncologist.

Radiation Therapy

There are **two** main ways Radiation Therapy is used to treat cancer:

External beam Radiation Therapy is the most common type. Radiation is made using high energy x-ray machines. These x-rays are like the x-rays used to diagnose disease, except they have a much stronger energy.

Internal Radiation Therapy is called Brachytherapy. This treatment involves placing radiation sources inside the body to treat cancer.

Some patients may have both **internal** and **external** radiation treatments.



How Radiation Works in Cancer Treatment

The high energy from the x-rays damages the DNA in the cancer cells. It is the DNA inside each cell that controls all the cells' functions. X-rays kills the cancer cells by damaging their ability to reproduce. The cancer cell dies when it tries to multiply.

Your Radiation Oncology Team

A group of health care professionals work as a team. They use their skills to give you the best care possible.

Your radiation team is made up of the following professionals:

- **Radiation Oncologist** is a doctor who is certified to use radiation to treat cancer. Your doctor is in charge of prescribing and planning your treatment. Your doctor will monitor you throughout treatment and organize your care once your treatments are done.
- **Primary Nurse** is a registered nurse who works closely with your doctor. Your nurse will educate you about your treatment, help you manage symptoms, give emotional support, and coordinate your care during treatment.
- **Radiation Therapists** plan and deliver the radiation treatments. They work closely with your doctor to prepare your treatment plan. You will see them each day when you come for treatment. Your radiation therapists will teach you about your treatment, help you manage symptoms, and give emotional support.
- **Medical physicists and their associates** will not interact with you directly, but are in charge of the safety and accuracy of the treatment machines and planning computers. They perform regular tests and checks on equipment to ensure treatment meets the highest standards. They also work with the radiation oncologists and radiation therapists to ensure the safety and quality of your treatment plan.

Your treatment team also includes staff in the **Supportive Care Program**. An Aboriginal Patient Navigator, dietitians, a Medicine Lodge Keeper, a neuropsychologist, physiotherapists, social workers, and speech language pathologists are available to you to help manage your care. Speak to any team member for more information on how to access their services. You can find more information about these services on **page # 3.11**.



Preparing for Radiation Treatment

Most patients will need a planning CT scan to plan the treatment. Marks or tattoos will be placed on your skin during your planning appointment. These marks or tattoos will help the therapists place you in the same position for your treatment each day.

Some patients require supports such as a facemask to help place them in the right position for treatment each day. These will be made at your planning appointment.

Radiation Education

You will be scheduled into a group radiation teaching session within the first week of your treatment. You will learn about:

- How cancer develops
- How and why we use radiation to treat cancer
- The planning of your treatment
- Your care while on treatment
- What happens when you finish your radiation treatments

If you have not been told about your education session please call the Radiation booking desk at **(705) 522-6237 ext. 2022**.

Before your first radiation treatment, a radiation therapist will speak to you about what to expect throughout your treatments.

Appointments: You may be treated daily (Monday to Friday) for many days or weeks. Your Treatment could start on any day of the week. This depends on when the next open spot is on the machine. We try our best to give you times that work for your schedule. Speak to the Radiation Booking clerks if you have any special times that you need.

Your Radiation Treatment

Each daily treatment may take 15-45 minutes. Your appointment includes the time to place you for your treatment and give the treatment. You will not feel anything during your treatments.

You are alone in the room when the treatment is being given. There is an intercom system that will allow you to speak to the therapists if needed. There is a monitor so that the therapists can see you at all times.



Review Visits

You will see your doctor and nurse each week during your treatment. They will monitor you throughout treatment and help you manage any side effects. Your weekly review is your chance to ask questions, and get answers to your questions. We recommend that you bring your drugs with you if you have any questions about them or you need a renewal. You will be asked to complete a symptom assessment before you see your oncologist each week.

Added visits with your doctor and nurse can be organized if you have urgent problems between your review visits. It is important that you notify the radiation therapists as early in the day as you can if there is a problem related to your treatment. They will organize a time for you to be seen if needed.

Your appointment card will show you the day you are booked for your review session.

Dental Clinic

Many cancer treatments can affect your mouth. That is why it is important that you have a healthy mouth and teeth to reduce any side effects that may occur.

We can provide services to you before you start your cancer treatment. Our dentist specializes in treating people with cancer and people with special medical needs in the community. We can also refer people to other specialists such as oral pathologists, endodontists and maxillofacial surgeons for the extra care they may need.

We provide care for people with cancer before:

- Surgery to the head and neck area
- Radiation to the head and neck area
- Bone marrow transplantation
- Treatment of Lymphoma and Hodgkin's Disease
- Treatment of Multiple Myeloma
- Chemotherapy treatment of other cancers

We help create prosthetic devices for people with cancer who require an intra-oral prosthetic device after surgery.

We provide oral cancer screening to people with cancer who are sent to us from dentists and doctors in the community.



There are three good reasons to see our dentist BEFORE you start cancer treatment.
Our dentist can help you:

1. **FEEL BETTER:** Your cancer treatment may be easier if you work with your dentist and hygienist. Make sure you have a pretreatment dental checkup.
2. **SAVE TEETH AND BONES:** Our dentist will help protect your mouth, teeth and jaw bones from damage caused by radiation and chemotherapy. Children also need special protection for their growing teeth and facial bones.
3. **FIGHT CANCER:** Doctors may have to delay or stop your cancer treatment if problems develop in your mouth. To fight cancer best, your cancer care team should include our dentist.

Booking an Appointment

It is easy to do. Just call **(705) 523-7334** or **1 (877) 228-1822, ext. 2250**. The Dental Clinic is near the elevators on Level 0 of the Cancer Centre.

Pharmacy

Staff in the Pharmacy makes sure that your treatment drugs are used in a way that gets the best results and improves your quality of life. They use their knowledge of you, the disease, and the drugs to identify and solve any drug-related problems. Pharmacy staff can also give you advice on how to handle possible side effects or drug-related problems.

The Cancer Centre Pharmacy cares for patients who are:

- Receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy in Sudbury at the Cancer Centre
- Receiving chemotherapy from a family doctor, or at one of our affiliated chemotherapy clinics
- Involved in a clinical trial of cancer drugs
- Receiving treatment from nurses provided through the North East - Community Care Access Centre program
- Under age 65 who have no drug insurance

Contacting the Pharmacy

The Cancer Centre Pharmacy is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you have any concerns about your treatment drugs, please call them at **(705) 522-6237, ext. 2131**.



Medication Tips

Help us reduce possible side effects from your drugs. For example, to avoid drug interactions, tell your doctor and pharmacist the name of all prescription and non-prescription drugs, as well as natural, herbal or traditional products you are taking, and the name of any drugs that you are allergic to. Make sure that you bring all of your drugs in the original containers.

So that you can better understand your drugs and how to use them, ask the pharmacist these questions:

- What is the name of the drug and what is it for?
- How and when should I take it, and for how long?
- What food, drinks, medicines, or activities should I avoid while taking the drug?
- What possible side effects can occur and how can I prevent or reduce them?
- Will these side effects affect my concentration or driving?
- How should I properly store the drug(s)?

Please check with your drug insurance company regarding coverage for specific drugs that may be prescribed for you. Your primary nurse or the Drug Access Coordinators can advise you of options available if you do not have drug insurance. If you are staying at the Lodge, a local retail pharmacy can pick up prescriptions and deliver medications that are not part of your cancer treatment.

Complementary Therapies

Please tell your oncologist, nurse and pharmacist about any natural, herbal or traditional products you may be taking. Many products do not mix well with prescription drugs and can cause other side effects. The pharmacist can also provide accurate information about the effects of additional therapies.

Tobacco Dependence Program

The Northeast Cancer Centre has a Tobacco Dependence Program for patients wanting to quit smoking. A Tobacco Dependence Nurse is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to offer counseling to help you become smoke free.

Please tell your primary care nurse if you would like to enroll in the program, or drop by the Tobacco Dependence Nurse's office in the hallway between clinics A and B on Level 0 to fill out a self-referral form.



HSN Northeast Cancer Centre

Transition Clinic

Your oncologist may refer you to our Transition Clinic when you have completed chemotherapy or radiation. The Transition Clinic takes care of patients after treatment to help in your recovery and monitor side effects of treatment. In the Transition Clinic you will meet a General Practitioner in Oncology (a family doctor that specializes in oncology) and a primary nurse.

This clinic serves as the link or transition between your oncologist and your primary care provider in the community. The Transition Clinic doctor and nurse will discuss the after treatment care you need during follow-up with you. Your General Practitioner in Oncology will recommend appropriate care and testing.

Transition Class

If you attend the Transition Clinic, you will be referred for a Transition Class. This education class will prepare you for the next steps in your follow up care

Supportive Care Services

“Why stand alone?”

If you or someone you know has cancer, you may have many questions and concerns. The staff of the Supportive Care Program can help you and your family through this difficult time. We are a group of professionals trained to help you and your family manage the psychological, emotional, social, spiritual, physical and day-to-day issues brought on by the illness.

Our team is made up of:

- **Aboriginal Patient Navigator** helps First Nations, Metis and Inuit patients and families to access cancer services across northeastern Ontario and provides support throughout the cancer journey
- **Medicine Lodge Keeper** helps First Nations, Metis and Inuit patients and families access the Medicine Lodge for health and well-being
- **Neuropsychologist** helps you deal with the cognitive (thinking) changes you may have experienced as a result of cancer or cancer treatments, including problems with concentrating or remembering



- **Physiotherapists** help you deal with the physical effects of cancer and to maintain your mobility during and after treatment
- **Social Workers** help you and your family members cope with the diagnosis, prepare for treatment, get through treatment, as well as assist you to access resources in your community. If you are struggling financially, we can assist you to look at a number of different options that might be helpful for you and your family, such as government financial programs.
- **Speech Language Pathologists** help you with difficulties with speaking and/or difficulties with swallowing, as a result of cancer or cancer treatment.
- **Registered Dietitians** help you plan what foods you will need to maintain your strength and provide your body with good nutrition despite the side effects of treatments.

Making an Appointment

If you have questions about any of our support services, our classes and support groups; before, during, or after your treatments, please ask your nurse or oncologist to make a referral to the Supportive Care Program. Radiation therapists can also make a referral for you while you are receiving radiation treatment. We will contact you to schedule an appointment for you at the Centre. **You or a family member can also call the Supportive Care Program directly at (705) 522-6237 ext. 2175 or 1 (877) 228-1822 ext. 2175, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

Most services are available in both French and English.

Classes offered by the Supportive Care program

*****Please note:** If you **live outside** of the City of Greater Sudbury, classes and individual sessions may be available through telemedicine videoconferencing in your community. Please contact the Supportive Care Program at **1-877-228-1822 ext. 2175** for details of particular sessions.

- **Information sessions on Nutrition DURING treatment:** Learn what to eat to maintain your energy and get the maximum benefit from the treatments, as well as how to manage side effects. Classes are held monthly in the Supportive Care area.



You can also access this class online at the Hospital website:

- Please go to www.hsnsudbury.ca
 - Click on “Programs and Services”
 - Click on “Northeast Cancer Centre”
 - Click on “Programs and Services” on the left hand side
 - Click on “Supportive Care Services” on the left hand side
 - Click on “Nutrition” on the left hand side
 - Click on the link “[Nutrition During Treatment: Making Every Bite Count](#)”
- **Information sessions on Nutrition AFTER treatment:** Learn what to eat to reduce your risk of recurrence of your disease, basic strategies to manage your weight as well as accurate information about vitamins and herbal supplements.
 - **Breast Cancer Information Session for Women with Breast Cancer:** Patients and their families are invited to join a social worker, physiotherapist and a genetics counsellor for a talk about the social, emotional and physical issues faced by breast cancer patients. Topics include lymphedema, sexuality, hair loss, financial resources, and talking to kids about cancer.
 - **Fighting Fatigue: What can you do about it?** This monthly class, open to patients and their families, provides information on cancer related fatigue. You will learn about the causes of cancer related fatigue and how to cope with fatigue from a social worker, dietitian, and physiotherapist.

To register and/ or to obtain more information, please call: (705) 522-6237 ext. 2175 or Toll Free: 1 (877) 228-1822 ext, 2175.

Support Groups Offered and Facilitated at the Centre

Many groups are offered to help you at this difficult time. Contact the Supportive Care Program for more information about the following groups:

- **Support Group for Children Who Experience Cancer within their Family:** A group experience for children 5 to 11 years of age, who have a family member with cancer. It provides accurate information about cancer and participants can share their experiences with other children.
- **Get Together For Kids With Cancer:** A group for youth, led by a social worker and a nurse with experience in working with kids who have cancer. This group helps youth to offer and receive support from one another, while enjoying social events in the community.



- **Young Adult Grief Group:** A monthly support group for teens and young adults who have experienced the death of a family member. It is an opportunity to express grief, share stories and struggles with others; learn about the normal emotions of grieving; interact with others on issues related to death and to offer and receive support; develop coping strategies; and get ideas on how to adjust to a new family environment.
- **Young Adult Support Group:** A monthly group for teens and young adults who have a family member with cancer. It helps them to share and exchange information, such as learning more about cancer and its treatment, talking about their feelings and experiences, and learning how to cope.
- **Support Group for Women with Advanced Illness:** A monthly group for women with recurrent cancer. Its goal is to offer women the opportunity to meet and support each other.
- **Laryngectomy Support Group:** This group, which was started by patients and their caregivers, meets quarterly to provide support and information to new and surviving laryngectomy patients. Speech language pathologists attend the group to provide support and guidance.
- **Cancer Transitions: Moving Beyond Treatment:** This six week program is designed to help patients who have finished treatment get back on track. Each week, information and support about exercise, nutrition, emotional issues and managing medical issues after treatment is provided to cancer survivors. The group is led by a social worker and guest speakers include a registered dietitian, nurse, physiotherapist, and neuropsychologist.
- **Support Group for Cancer Caregivers** provides emotional support, information, and skill development in a group setting for caregivers, and allows them to share support with one another in a managed group situation. This group meets monthly.
- **Circle of Strength Facilitators Meeting:** This group provides a monthly forum to address operational and group process issues that peer group facilitators experience in providing peer led support for women diagnosed with breast cancer. This group also provides a forum for peer group facilitators to address their individual issues, which are not addressed in the peer group they are facilitating.
- **We're in it Together Support Group:** This support class for couples uses the video "Like a Fish out of Water" to promote a deepened understanding of what women diagnosed with cancer experience and an opportunity for men to receive support while coping with a female partner's diagnosis of cancer.



- **Women's Return to Work Group:** This group is for women who are contemplating or actively preparing to return to work, after a cancer diagnosis and/or treatment. Facilitated by social workers, this therapeutic group provides opportunity for peer support. We discuss the social and financial impacts of a cancer diagnosis, the meaning of work in women's lives, body image, fatigue and sexuality, as well as the multiple roles that women occupy. A meeting with a social worker prior to the beginning of the group is scheduled.

To register and/or to obtain more information please call (705) 522-6237 ext. 2175 or toll free 1 (877) 228-1822 ext. 2175.

Other Members of our Treatment Team

The Medical/ Oncology In-Patient Unit

The Medical/ Oncology In-Patient unit of the Hospital is on the 4th floor North Tower of the Ramsey Lake Health Centre (Health Sciences North). It can provide any in-patient care you might need. Patients may receive chemotherapy treatments on the unit, care after radiation treatments in the Cancer Centre, and supportive care during their stay. A case manager from the Northeast Community Care Access Centre (NE-CCAC) is available to assess your needs when you are discharged from the Hospital.

Northeast Community Care Access Centre (NE-CCAC)

The NE-CCAC can help you access publicly funded in-home or in-school health services (services like nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, nutrition counseling, social work, and personal support/homemaking/caregiver respite) in Ontario.

Anyone can make a referral to the NE-CCAC as long as the person requiring services gives permission. Once a referral is received, a NE-CCAC case manager will complete an assessment. After performing an assessment, a NE-CCAC case manager will determine which services a person is eligible to receive, as outlined by Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care criteria. The case manager will then continue to monitor and coordinate NE-CCAC approved services.

There are NE-CCAC case managers from the Manitoulin-Sudbury Community Care Access Centre associated with the Cancer Centre Outpatient Clinics, the Medical Oncology In-Patient and Palliative Care Units on the 4th floor North Tower of the HSN, and the Daffodil Terrace Lodge.

You can contact a case manager toll-free at **1 (800) 461-2919**.



HSN Northeast Cancer Centre

Pain and Symptom Management Clinic

Our clinic helps out-patients who are living with the symptoms and stress of a life-threatening cancer diagnosis. This type of care is also called palliative care. We are experts at managing pain and other symptoms like nausea, fatigue and distress. To access our services please speak to your oncologist or primary nurse.

The Palliative Care Unit

The Palliative Care Unit is located on the 4th Floor North Tower of the Ramsey Lake Health Centre (Health Sciences North). Palliative care is a special program for patients for whom cure-oriented treatment is no longer appropriate. The primary goal is to improve the quality of the patient's remaining life through therapeutic services that address the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of patients and families.

The palliative team has nurses, volunteers, doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, pastoral care workers, and a case manager from the NE-CCAC. The team meets weekly to discuss and plan appropriate patient care.

Maison Vale Hospice

The hospice provides 24-hour care in a homelike setting through a team-based approach to care delivery. The team includes doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists, hospice volunteer visitors, spiritual advisors, and bereavement counsellors. It brings family members, friends, and healthcare professionals together as a care giving team so residents can live their remaining days in dignity and comfort, surrounded by the people who love them. The hospice is located on the site of St. Joseph's Village of Care on South Bay Road.

Your oncology team can answer any questions you might have about hospice care.