

The Generalist plus Specialist Palliative Care Model will likely help to address the high level of need nationally.

This care model distinguishes primary palliative care (skills that all clinicians should have) from specialist palliative care (skills for managing more complex and difficult cases) so that they can coexist and support each other.

Primary Palliative Care

- Basic management of pain and symptoms
- Basic management of depression and anxiety
- Basic discussion about
 - Prognosis
 - Goals of Treatment
 - Suffering
 - Code status

Specialty Palliative Care

- Management of refractory pain and other symptoms
- Management of more complex depression, anxiety, grief and existential distress
- Assistance with conflict resolution regarding goals or methods of treatment within
 - Families
 - Between staff and families among treatment teams
 - Assistance in addressing cases near futility

Source: Quill TE, Abemethy. Generalist plus Specialist Palliative Care – Creating a More Sustainable Model. N Engl J Med 2013; 368;13: 1173-1175.