

What is **Comfort Care**?

If you or a loved one are placed in the status of **Comfort Care** that means that treatment will be focused on the alleviation of symptoms (*such as pain, anxiety or breathlessness*). It does not usually include curative or life prolonging treatment. **Comfort Care** is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life threatening illness. The approach includes treatment that addresses physical, social and spiritual needs.



When do **Comfort Care** orders begin?

This decision to move a patient to Comfort Care status is made after a care conference with the patient and family. At this conference we clarify and honor the goals set in decision making regarding end-of-life care. In some cases, a loved one or caregiver might be the one making the choices for the patient.

At the time of the meeting the hospital team will review the various areas of concern including **Comfort Care** orders that will be ordered by the **Hospitalist**. Notification will also be made to the patient's primary care provider of the patient status. In addition to these measures, we encourage family to contact the patient's primary care provider to ensure they are informed.

A white rose will be placed outside the patient room to signify to staff that a patient in this room is in the end-of-life process and to approach the patient room with mindfulness, humility and respect. *Family is welcome to keep the white rose following the death of their loved one.*



What about orders already in place?

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) and **Do Not Intubate (DNI)** does not equal **Do Not Treat**. The patient can still receive pain medications and other drug treatment therapies and these decisions for care can be changed as the patient's condition, needs and/or wishes change. You need only speak to your physician(s) or caregivers(s). *We are here to support you, no matter what the goals of care you choose are.*

What other resources are available?

After the meeting family will receive a **Comfort Care Packet** that includes education materials, Five Wishes advance directive, and other helpful resources.

