

National Hospice and Palliative Care Month: *Compassionate Care at Every Stage of Life*

Hospice and Palliative care provides comfort and quality of life for patients and families facing serious illness. These services focus on relief from symptoms, pain, and stress – regardless of diagnosis or age – and are designed to support the whole person (physical, emotional, and spiritual needs).

Key Messages & Action Steps:

- Start the conversation early – Introduce palliative care alongside treatment for serious illnesses such as cancer, COPD, heart failure, and dementia.
- Use an interdisciplinary approach – palliative care involves physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and community health workers.
- Screen for palliative care needs – Integrate symptom management, advance care planning, and psychosocial assessments into patient visits.
- Partner locally – Collaborate with hospice providers, faith-based organizations, and home health agencies to strengthen care continuity.
- Educate staff – Host a short in-service on identifying patients who might benefit from palliative or hospice care.

Visit the **Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC)** for resources

Visit cancer.org to learn more about **Palliative care** and for **more resources**

The National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care's Clinical Practice Guide

Cancer focused **End of Life**, including free access to Advanced Directives and Wills on **Giving Docs**

Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2025



Veterans experience higher rates of certain cancers compared to the population, often linked to service-related exposures (such as Agent Orange, radiation, burn pits, or contaminated water). Many also face unique barriers to care, including rural residence, limited access to specialty care, and mental health or transportation challenges.

Most Common Cancers in Veterans

- **Lung Cancer** – linked to smoking, asbestos, and burn pit exposure.
- **Liver Cancer** – associated with hepatitis C and chemical exposure.
- **Bladder and kidney cancer** – linked to Agent Orange and solvents.
- **Prostate Cancer** – one of the most common among male veterans, often related to Agent Orange.
- **Head and neck cancers** – tied to tobacco use and exposure to certain chemicals.

US Veterans Cancer Resources

Military Burn Pits and Cancer Risk

Agent Orange and Cancer Risk

As we honor our nation's veterans this November, we recognize their service and the unique health challenges many face. By promoting early cancer screening, connecting veterans to care, and supporting those living with serious illness, we can ensure that every veteran receives the dignity and compassion they deserve.

Additional Resources



VOICES
OF BLACK WOMEN

VOICES of Black Women, led by the American Cancer Society, is a national movement inviting Black women to help improve Black women's health through shared experiences and insight. [Click here](#) to learn more about the study.



Every cancer. Every life.
Cancer Facts & Figures
2025

Patient Navigator Training & Credentialing | American Cancer Society.