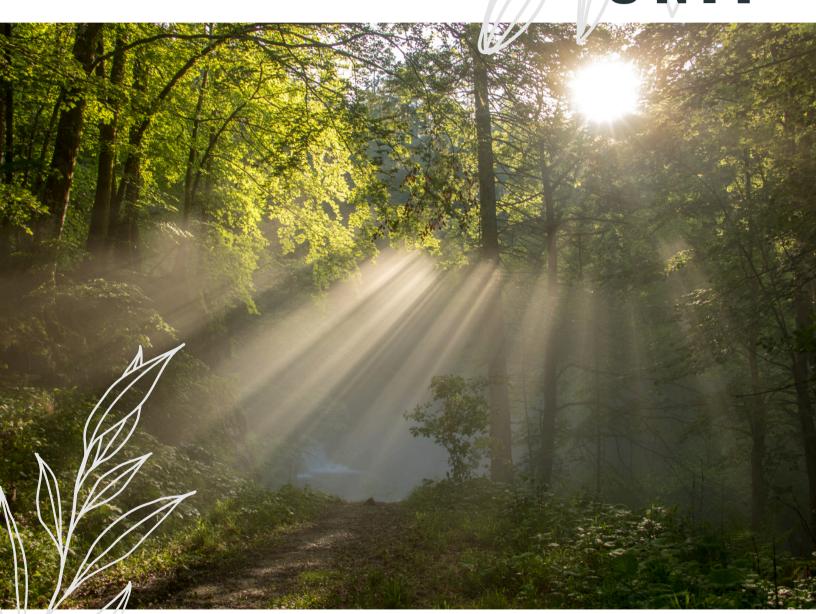
WELCOME TO THE PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT



AT ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL SWITCHBOARD: 306 655 5000 PALLIATIVE CARE NURSING STATION: 306 655 5530

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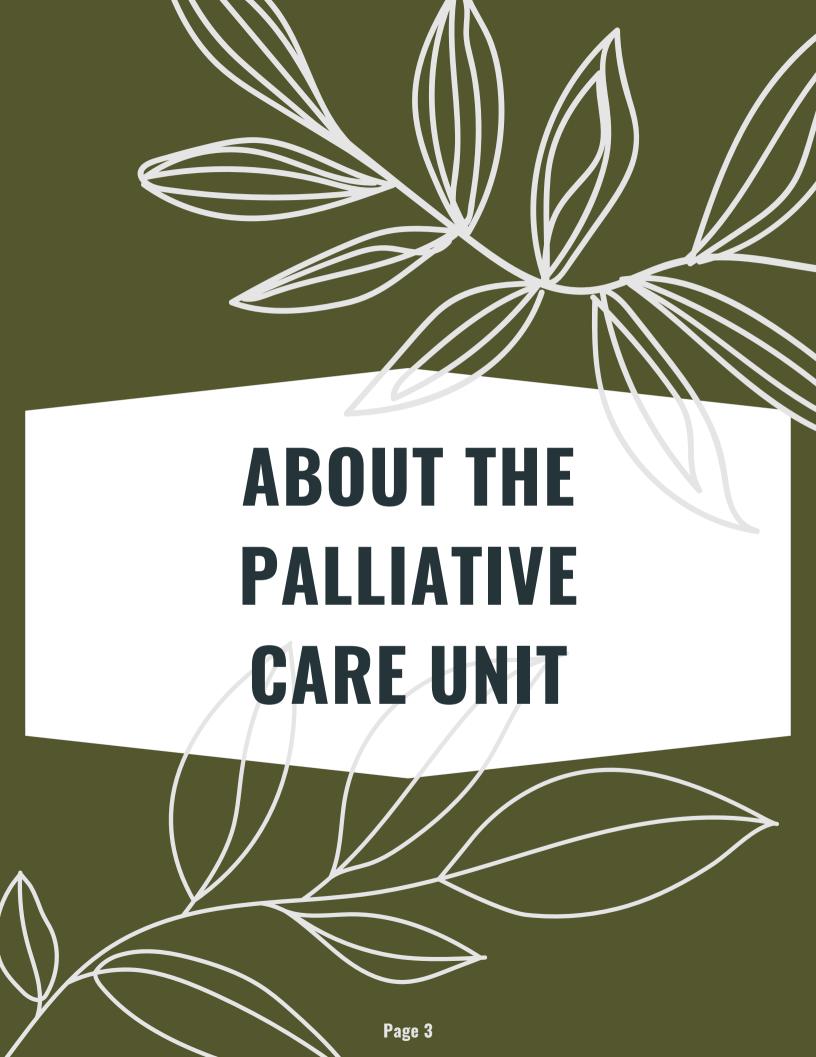
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UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION

Palliative Care Nursing Station: 306 655 5530

Social Work Support: 306 655 5519

Music Therapy: 306 655 5526

Spiritual Care Support: 306 655 5000

Manager of Palliative Care Unit: 306 655 5868

The Saskatoon Acute Palliative Care Unit (PCU) is located on the 5th floor at St. Paul's Hospital. The unit provides complex symptom management and imminent end of life care for patients. The unit is comprised of 12 private rooms. Each room is provided with a sleep chair and recliner for patient and family comfort.

The average stay for an acute palliative care patient on the short-stay unit is two weeks. While on the unit the patient's care needs are monitored and assessed by the palliative care team. If or when a discharge is necessary, the palliative care team will work with the patient and their loved ones to make necessary arrangements.

DAILY UNIT ROUTINE

Our RN's & LPN's are available 24/7 on the unit, with our CCA's being available during the day, as well as some evenings. Please use the call bell in the room to speak with your nurse.

Shift change occurs at 7:30am and 7:30pm, at which time the nurses hand over and update the incoming staff about patient needs to ensure continuity of care. Between 7:30am and 8:00am and again from 7:30pm to 8:00pm, the staff may not be able to accommodate every request, but will do their best to see to patient needs as soon as they are able.

The interdisciplinary care team meets for rounds each weekday morning in order to collaborate and maintain good communication for best care. The doctor and/or resident will then make visits throughout the day to the patients on the unit.

Baths and showers typically take place during the daytime, however in some cases they can be offered in the evening as well.

Housekeepers are on the unit daily to clean the room and wash floors. Please notify staff of any area that may need attention.

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ABOUT THE PCU

VISITING THE UNIT

To enhance patients' stay and for the convenience of families and friends, there is 24 hour visitor access. After 8:00pm please use the emergency department entrance to receive a visitor's pass.

Although each patient has a private room, family and friends visiting the unit are reminded that quiet, respect, and thoughtfulness for others who share this space is appreciated by all.

PARKING

Paid parking is available on the street near the hospital, as well as in the two visitor parking lots. The visitor lots are located just outside the Emergency department and at the corner of Avenue R and 20th Street.

Spaces are based on availability. If you require a safe walk to and/or from your vehicle, please call switchboard at 306 655 5000 to arrange a pick up.

KITCHEN

The unit provides a kitchen with ice, water, a coffee maker, toaster, kettle, stove, microwave, a variety of dishes, utensils, and a dining table. When using the kitchen to prepare snacks or light meals, please leave the kitchen ready for the next person by putting your dishes through the dishwasher and tidying up the area. Since is it a shared space, please also be mindful of your time in the kitchen as the other patients and families may want to use the facility for food preparation. Take-out food may also be brought onto the unit.

DAY ROOM

The day room is intended as a quiet space for families and loved ones to enjoy. There are couches, a T.V, fire place, as well as tables for games and puzzles. Within the day room, the unit keeps a memory tree and guest book where you are invited to reminisce or write down memories. We light the lamp in remembrance of those who have passed and display their name to honour them and their family.

STILLNESS ROOM

Located across the hall from the day room is the stillness room. This is intended as a quiet space for anyone on the unit to use. There are nature images and dimmed lights to create a peaceful place for contemplation.

TUB ROOM

We have a deep soaker tub available for patient use on the unit. During your soak in the tub you can make a selection from a variety of different videos such as nature scenery, car shows, a day on the tractor, cozy campfires, and guided meditation. If there is something you would like to watch during your soak, please let our staff know and we will seek out a video to meet your interests.

COMFORT CARE CART

Through donor support, we are able to offer warm drinks, snacks, and other goodies to those on the unit. The comfort care cart is operated by volunteers and is made possible by the generosity of donations to the Palliative Care Unit.

DIGNITY QUILTS

We have four special quilts that we offer to patients and families in order to honour a death. This quilt is placed prior to the transfer of care to a funeral home. We have a butterfly scene, lakeside sunset, autumnal earth patchwork, and a dragonfly quilt that are set aside for this purpose. If this is something that you would like to occur, please let our staff team know and we will make sure to fulfill this at the end of life.

STAINED-GLASS BUTTERFLIES

Stained-glass butterflies are placed on the door to signify and honour a recent death.

ROOM AMENITIES

Each room on the unit is equipped with a television and a directline telephone. There is a private bathroom, bedside table, minifridge, and magnetic strip to display personal items. There is also a convertible sleep/recliner chair for the comfort of patients and family members.

T.V. OPERATION

Turn on the TV with the red power buttons on the top of the remote. Use the guide button to look through available programs and then select with the "select/ok" button at the centre of the navigation arrows.

MUSIC CHANNELS

Music is found on channels 401 through 462. There is a wide variety of music such as, Jukebox Oldies (419), Country Classics (425), Classic Rock (418), Hot Country (404), Greatest Hits (410), Around the World (433), and Nature Sounds (434). There is also a frame channel on 165, which features scenery from all over the world.

CD PLAYERS & BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS

CD players are made available to each room on the unit. The players have radio, CD, and in some cases, cassette decks or Bluetooth accessibility. CD's are available from the music therapy office, by speaking to staff or a music therapy team member. Bluetooth speakers are available to sign out while on the unit. If you would like to use one of these speakers, please connect with the music therapy team.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Feel free to bring personal items from home that you would use on a day to day basis, such as personal toiletries, non-slip footwear, mobility equipment, hearing aids, dentures, glasses, shaving kit, etc. Please label personal items and leave valuables at home. A current medication list should be brought from home and given to the nurse for consistency of care and patient safety.



Palliative Care Services offers a number of support services to help patients and families. For more information about the services listed below please ask your nurse or see the contact list at the front of the welcome booklet.

PALLIATIVE CARE PHYSICIANS

They are on the unit daily, and available to the nurses 24 hours a day. The Palliative Care Physician has primary medical responsibility, and collaborates with the patient and family. The palliative care physician works in consultation with your family doctor and other specialists.

SOCIAL WORK

Social workers are available to support patients and families while they navigate changes that the end of life brings. Social workers offer support through connection and counselling - assisting with patient-family relationships, conversations around legacy work, supporting patients' quality of life, and by locating and accessing necessary resources for patient and family needs.

Social workers have grief and bereavement resources available for patients and families on the unit. Please connect with a social worker for children's books about death and illness, grief and loss resources, and grief workbooks for all ages.

MUSIC THERAPY

For many, music provides a comforting and reflective experience. Music therapy is a holistic and integrative therapy where support is tailored, through the development of a therapeutic relationship, to the unique goals, strengths, and preferences of the participants. The music therapist offers individual and family support through a variety of music-based interventions. No musical experience is required to be able to participate.

To speak to a music therapist, please call 306 655 5526.

Research has shown that music therapy can:

- improve comfort and support relaxation
- reduce anxiety and restlessness
- support reminiscence and emotional expression
- improve mood and reduce pain

Some examples of music therapy offerings on the unit:

- participation in a relaxation session with music and/or a meditative visualization
- write a song that captures a meaningful memory, statement, or message
- record your heartbeat and have it transformed into a song

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SUPPORT SERVICES

SPIRITUAL CARE

St. Paul's Hospital recognizes that the care of one's spirit is an essential part of holistic care, especially at end of life. Spiritual Care Practitioners welcome and hold space for palliative patients and their family. They listen to a person's story, engage in supportive conversation, and help to explore meaning in life and in death. They are a compassionate presence that acknowledges that each person is unique in their culture, beliefs, and experience.

In collaboration with the health care team, Spiritual Care Practitioners provide information that can enhance care and spiritual wellness. Their hope is that patients and their family feel safe, heard, and comforted. Spiritual Care Practitioners listen to the spoken and unspoken language for the purpose of helping others to gain insight in their spiritual healing process, to connect people with what it is that gives them meaning and hope, encourage persons to utilize their relational supports, and to maintain their spiritual practices that both nurture and sustain their entire being (mind, body, emotion, and spirit). If a patient or their family wants religious care support to enhance spiritual wellness, spiritual care can make a referral to an outside religious representative.

If you would like a Spiritual Care Practitioner consult, please speak to a staff member for a referral or call 306 655 5000 and ask to speak to spiritual care.

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SUPPORT SERVICES

FIRST NATION & METIS HEALTH

First Nation and Métis Health (FNMH) is a holistic offerings that focuses on the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of the individual. Through an understanding of oneself, a vision of wellness which balances body, mind, and spirit, is promoted throughout life. Additionally, support is provided to patients and their families from admission to discharge by working with a range of health professionals and departments. Available Monday to Friday, please contact 306 655 0518.

SMUDGING

Smudging occurs in the first nation's prayer and ceremonial room on the 5th floor Monday to Friday at 11:00am. Listen for announcements for any changes or cancellations.

Smudging can also be done in the patient's room if they are unable to go to the ceremonial room. Please connect with staff for further guidance.

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SUPPORT SERVICES

SACRED SPACES

If you are looking for a quiet space for some peace and solitude there a number of spaces available for your use:

- The Chapel 3rd floor
- Palliative Care Stillness Room on the palliative care unit
- Stillness Room 5th floor
- First Nations Prayer and Ceremonial Room 5th floor

VOLUNTEERS

Trained volunteers are on the unit throughout the week to provide a variety of services, such as making and sharing fresh baked goods, bringing around the comfort care cart, and offering home comforts such as, art for patient rooms and books to read.

THRESHOLD SINGERS

The Threshold singers visit the monthly, typically on Tuesday afternoons. They offer gentle acapella music to bring ease and comfort. Feel free to connect with the music therapy team about dates for their next visit or to learn more about this offering, reach out directly to the group at 306 491 9176.



ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

It's about conversations. It's about wishes.

Advance Care Planning is a process of reflection and communication. It is a time for you to reflect on your values and wishes, and to let people know what kind of health and personal care you would want in the future if you were unable to speak for yourself. (Advance Care Canada, 2024)

It is important for the Palliative Care Team to be conscious and respectful of your wishes for care. To assist us in doing so, please ensure a copy of your Advance Care Plan is provided to staff. A copy will be placed in your medical record. This is our way of both honouring your decisions and providing you the best care.

If you have any questions or would like more information on Advance Care planning, please speak to any member of our team and someone will connect back with you. You may also want to explore the following resources:

Advance Care Planning - Sask Health Authority 306 766 5922 or 833 544 2255 advancecareplanningprgm@saskhealthauthority.ca

Canadian Virtual Hospice virtualhospice.ca search: advance care plan

Page 21 RESOURCES

OCULAR DONATION

Donation is a personal choice.

Donation is an end of life option. It is an opportunity to leave a life changing legacy. To register your intent, you can contact a donor coordinator or go to givelifesask.ca

Talk to your family about your wishes so that they can make the best decision on your behalf.

Who can be a donor:

- <81 years of age
- Undergoing MAID process
- Palliative care
 - Cancer does not rule out donation

If you have any questions regarding tissue donation, please contact a donor coordinator for further assistance.

Monday - Friday 0800-1600 306 655 0315

sha.donationprogram@saskhealthauthority.ca

GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT PACKAGES

We have created grief and bereavement packages that are available for all ages. These packages are intended to help support you in your grief and to also help support children in your life as you work through the included resources.

BOOKS

We have a small collection of books on grief and loss available on the unit. We also have a collection of children's books that deal with illness and loss that can be used while on the unit. Please speak with a music therapist or a social worker if you're looking for something specific.

Additionally, there is a book cart run by volunteers at the hospital that can be requested, which has a variety of fiction, non-fiction, and magazines for your enjoyment.

LEGACY PROJECTS

While you are on the unit you may want to consider creating or working on a legacy project with your loved ones. Some ideas include:

- Record voice memos with messages of love
- Collect your favourite recipes to create a recipe book
- Collect family photos and have them transferred to a pillow case, quilt, or blanket etc.
- Write cards or letters to celebrate future special dates or occasions
- Record memories and favourite times together
- Create a playlist of favourite songs or memorable tunes

For interest in these resources or for support with these projects please connect with a social worker or music therapist.

PLANNING FOR END OF LIFE

The Saskatchewan Health Authority has a practical guide and checklist to help with navigating the many components of end of life and after death care. This guide includes checklists for financial processes, insurance policies, subscriptions, household services, and personal identification, etc. To receive a physical copy of this document please speak to a social worker or Palliative Care staff member.

For a digital copy, scan to use the link provided.

PLANNING AFTER DEATH CARE

Part of our care after death, as in life, is in facilitating the transfer to your chosen funeral home for after death plans. Most funeral homes offer immediate transfer at the time of death, however, some are unable to make this accommodation. Please speak directly with your chosen funeral home to see how the transfer of care is accommodated outside of regular business hours.



As life comes to an end, you should be aware that your loved one will go through different physical changes as the body slows down and prepares for the final stages of life.

We hope that you will find the included information helpful. Please remember that each situation is different. These signs and symptoms will not necessarily occur in all dying persons.

Sleeping Longer

They may sleep for longer periods and may be more difficult to wake up.

Eating and Drinking Less

Most who are dying do not experience thirst or hunger as death approaches and their ability to swallow decreases.

- Keep serving sizes small and keep the lips moist with a damp cloth, sponge, or sips of water
- Generally, hydration does not improve comfort or prolong life

Becoming Confused

They may become confused and unable to recognize familiar people or surroundings.

 Continue to speak calmly and give gentle reminders about who is in the room with them and that they are in a safe space

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WHAT TO EXPECT AT END OF LIFE

Have Irregular or Shallow Breathing

It is common to have 10-30 second periods when breathing may stop. Gasping sounds are common.

Have Irregular Heartbeat or Pulse

Both of these are normal patterns and are signs of the "slowing down" process.

Become Restless

They may become restless and pull at the bed linen or clothing, or may "see" things.

- Continue to give reassurance
- Playing calm, soothing music, or giving a gentle massage may help to ease discomfort

Lose Control of Bladder or Bowels

Your nurse can give advice on protective coverings for beds or recommend whether a catheter may be helpful.

Have Cool Limbs

The arms and legs may feel cool to touch with the skin acquiring a blue/purple mottled appearance. They may perspire or feel cool and clammy. Slowing of circulation causes these changes. Cover the patient as usual as they will not be feeling the cold.

Become Unresponsive

They may not be able to respond to voices or touch.

- However, physical touch, such as holding hands, may be a good way to connect
- Continue to speak in a calm, natural way. Messages of love and support can be heard.

Develop Wet-Sounding Breathing

This may be caused by saliva collecting at the back of the throat, which cannot be swallowed because of weak muscles.

- Turning the patient to their side and raising the head of the bed or upper body with pillows can help to provide some comfort
- Suctioning is usually ineffective in clearing secretions

What You Can Do To Prepare

- Work on a legacy project
- Choose a funeral home
- Make funeral plans with your loved one and with other family members

When Death Occurs

At the time of death there will be no pulse, no breathing, and there may be a loss of bladder or bowel control. Their eyes may be open or closed and fixed in one position.

Please feel free to take time to say goodbye if you would like, before your loved one is transported to the funeral home.



When someone important to you dies, you grieve. This means that you may experience a wide range of reactions, often over an extended period of time. The following three sections generally coincide with early, middle, and later grief, though variation and overlap of these phases is common.

When a Death Occurs

As you accept the fact of the death of someone important, you will feel shock, numbness, and disbelief that this has happened. Panic and strong physical and emotional reactions are common.

You may experience:

Social

- Withdrawal from others
- Unrealistic expectations of self and others
- Poor judgment about relationships

Physical

- Shortness of breath
- Digestive upsets
- Low energy, weakness, and restlessness

Emotional

- Crying, sobbing, and wailing
- Indifference and emptiness
- Outrage and helplessness

Mental

- Confusion, forgetfulness, and poor concentration
- Denial and daydreaming
- Constant thoughts about the person who died and/or the death

Spiritual

- Blaming God or life
- Lack of meaning, direction, or hope
- Wanting to die or join the person who died

What Can Help

- -Pace yourself moment to moment
- -Don't make unnecessary life changes
- -Talk about the person and the death
- -Use practical and emotional supports

Adjusting to loss

Later, as the numbness subsides, you will deal with what this loss means to you and the emotional pain of grieving. The intensity of feelings may surprise or frighten you, but it is natural and can be resolved as you move through it.

You may experience:

Social

- Rushing into new relationships
- Wanting company, but being unable to ask for it
- Continued withdrawal and isolation
- Self-conciousness

Physical

- Changes in appetite
- Shortness of breath and palpitations
- Digestive upsets

Emotional

- Intense and conflicting emotions
- Magnified fear for self or others
- Anger, sadness, guilt, depression

Mental

- Sense of "going crazy"
- Memory problems
- Difficulty concentrating/understanding
- Vivid dreams or nightmares

Spiritual

- Trying to contact the person who died
- Sensing the presence of the person who died - visitations
- Continued lack of meaning

What Can Help

- -Recognize and express your emotions
- -Acknowledge changes
- -Understanding your grief and knowing others experience similar responses

As life goes on

As you adjust to life without the person who died, you will begin to re-establish connections with the world around you. You will have more energy for family, friends, work, and other interests.

You may experience:

Social

- More interest in daily affairs of self and/or others
- Ability to reach out and meet others
- Energy for social visits and events

Physical

- Physical symptoms subside
- Sleep pattern and appetites are more settled
- Gut-wrenching emptiness lightens

Emotional

- Emotions are less intense
- Feeling like coming out of the fog
- More peace; less guilt

Mental

- Increased perspective about the death
- Ability to remember with less pain
- Improved concentration and memory
- Dreams and nightmares decrease

Spiritual

- Reconnection with religious/spiritual beliefs
- Life has new meaning and purpose
- Acceptance of death as part of the life cycle

What Can Help

- -Reflecting on progress since the death
- -Beginning to envision a future
- -Engaging in new activities
- -Establishing new roles and relationships

Grief may be somewhat familiar, or it may be a new, uncertain endeavour. It is not an easy journey and there may be times when you want more support than is available through your social network.

Free online resources:

kidsgrief.ca - Support for parents in helping their children deal with grief and loss.



youthgrief.ca - Support for youth dealing with grief and loss, as well as support for parents helping youth.



mygrief.ca - Confidential and free resources for working through grief, as well as modules to go thru at your own pace.



www.chpca.ca/resource/grief-and-bereavementresource-repository/ - Canadian Hospice and Palliative Care Association resources for all ages





FALL PREVENTION

When admitted to the Palliative Care Unit, patients and/or family should:

- ensure nursing staff are aware of any previous slips or trips resulting in a patient fall
- bring all current medications from home and give them to your nurse
- ensure patient call-bell is within reach
- call for assistance when feeling weak or dizzy
- use only non-slip footwear
- bring personal items such as glasses, hearing aids, mobility aids (cane, walker, wheelchair, etc.) that are used at home.
- keep hospital room free of clutter and tripping hazards (electrical cords, personal belongings, etc.)

INFECTION CONTROL

When visiting the Palliative Care Unit:

- Remember to clean your hands upon entering and leaving a
 patient's room, as well as upon entering and leaving the
 palliative care unit. An alcohol-based hand rub is available for
 use at the entrance to the unit and outside each patient room.
- When visiting a patient who has special isolation instructions, you will find instruction posted by the door of the patient room. You must follow the instructions completely and at all times.
- Always check for signage for specific infection control precautions before entering the patient's room.

If you have any questions, please speak to your nurse.

MEDICATION RECONCILIATION

This is an important program that helps health care providers make knowledgeable decisions based on complete information in regards to the medications you are presently using.

Medication Reconciliation reduces the number of medication errors associated with medication use. To assist in this process, please bring in all the medications you are currently taking at home, including prescriptions medications, over the counter medications, supplements, vitamins, and herbal remedies.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

To achieve our goal of providing the right medication, to the right patient, at the right time, you can expect the following:

- before you are given any medication, the nurse will check your patient identification bracelet and verify you are not allergic to the medication being given.
- your nurse will inform you of the name of the medication, what the medication is for, and the reason why you are taking the medication.

If you have any questions, please discuss them with your nurse or doctor.



CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

St Paul's Hospital is going through a period of change with construction to the main entrance of the hospital. Construction is expected to last into 2026 and may affect some of the amenities at the hospital.

The acting public entrance is the basement entrance on Avenue R and is open between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm. To enter after hours, please enter through the Emergency Department Entrance.

WASHROOMS

The washroom in the patient room is designated for patient use only. There is a public washroom available on the unit between rooms 577 and 578. Additionally, there are public washrooms available on the 5th floor near the elevators, directly across from the 5th floor community space.

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is located in the basement level of St. Paul's Hospital. It is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 6:30pm. There are snacks and deli items available daily and a weekly menu is posted at the entrance of the cafeteria. The lunch meals are served between 11:00am and 1:30pm and supper meals are served between 4:00pm-6:30pm. The cafeteria is closed on weekends and statutory holidays.

TIM HORTONS

Open daily from 6:00am to 10:30pm.

GIFT SHOP

Closed until construction is completed.

There is a gift shop on the main floor, which offers small personal items, clothing, gifts, cards, activity booklets, and an assortment of snack food. Open Monday to Friday from 11:00 am to 5pm and Saturdays from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Closed on Sundays and all statutory holidays.

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HOSPITAL AMENITIES

ATM

There is an ATM located on the main floor near the Emergency Department Entrance.

VENDING MACHINE

There is a vending machine for drinks and snacks available on the 5th floor that you pass by on the way in to the palliative care unit.

ART STUDIO

The art studio is located on the main floor of the hospital. The Healing Arts staff and volunteers operate the studio and post opening hours next to the door. For questions about the art studio please contact Marlessa, artist in residence, at 306 655 0514.

CASHIERS OFFICE

If you are looking to purchase an extended length parking pass or cash small cheques the office is located on the main floor. Hours of operation: Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Closed on weekends and on statutory holidays.

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HOSPITAL AMENITIES



PETS

Pets may be brought directly to a patient's room for short periods with prior approval. Requirements:

- the visiting pet requires up to date vaccinations
- must be kept leashed and under someone's care

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

With prior approval, alcoholic beverages for patient use may be brought to the unit.

SMOKING & VAPING

Smoking and vaping is not allowed on hospital grounds.

SCENT FREE SPACE

The Palliative Care Unit is a "Scent Free Unit." Arrangements and cut flowers are welcomed with the exception of lilies and other highly fragrant flowers.

SMUDGING

Smudging is available in patient rooms on the unit. To facilitate this, please speak to a palliative care team member or contact the First Nations and Metis Health team at 306 655 0518.

DONATIONS TO THE UNIT - YOU CAN HELP!

A donation to St. Paul's Hospital Foundation can be designated to the Palliative Care Unit at St. Paul's Hospital. You can make a gift to our Foundation by calling our office or

donating online through the QR code.

You can also choose to give by setting up automatic withdrawals through our

convenient Circle of Angels Monthly Giving Program. Gifts from our community have had a profound impact on patients receiving care in our Palliative Care Unit. Donor support has enabled us to bring home-like touches to the unit, including the Comfort Care Cart with snacks and beverages, the Family Room fireplace, games and puzzles, the Art Cart, a Memory Tree at Christmas, mini-fridges for each patient room, new sleep beds and furniture, and the 'tickle trunk' for children who come to visit loved ones.

Thank you for considering supporting the Palliative Care Department in this way.



St. Paul's Hospital Foundation 1702 20th Street West, Saskatoon SK S7M 0Z9

Phone: 306 655 5821 Fax: 306 655 5825

Toll Free: 1888 345 0330

Email: info@sphfoundation.org

sphfoundation.org



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? FILL OUT THIS DIGITAL FORM TO CONNECT WITH US

St Paul's Hospital - Palliative Care Unit
PCU Music Therapy
306 655 5526

"You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die."

Dame Cicely Saunders

It is our hope that you make yourself feel at home on the unit. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Sincerely, SPH Palliative Care Team

