The UNC Supportive Care Program was partially funded by the University Cancer Research Fund.
Questions & Answers

The diagnosis and treatment of cancer can have serious effects on quality of life and normal activities of daily living. The Supportive Care Consult Service provides a team approach to assist the patient and family with managing symptoms that may be experienced during treatment.

What is Supportive Care?
Supportive Care refers to helping manage the side effects of cancer treatment and cancer-related problems such as pain and psychological or emotional issues.

Who provides Supportive Care?
The Supportive Care Consult Service includes doctors, nurses, social workers, family counselors, pharmacists and dietitians. The team works with patients, families, and other medical professionals to create care plans that can help manage symptoms, treatment, and other cancer-related issues.

Where is Supportive Care delivered?
The team is available for adult patients seen in all oncology clinics: medicine, surgery, and radiation, in the North Carolina Clinical Cancer Center.

What services are offered by the Supportive Care Consult Service?
Supportive Care can help patients and their loved ones with:

- Pain
- Symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, anxiety, depression, fatigue, loss of appetite, or shortness of breath
- Emotional, psychological, or spiritual suffering.
- Nutritional problems
- Concern about medical decisions
- Difficulty communicating values, goals, and personal choices

For more information, call the Supportive Care Coordinator
(919) 966-1500

Is Supportive Care the same as Palliative Care?
Both programs help with pain management and improving comfort and quality of life for the patient. Supportive Care provides care to patients who are much earlier in their illness than those receiving palliative care and many have returned to full activity. The patients are seen in the outpatient clinic. Supportive care is available to patients from the beginning of their illness through survivorship and can be provided whether a patient is actively being treated for cancer or not.

Will my insurance cover Supportive Care?
Most insurance companies, including Medicare and Medicaid, cover at least part, if not all, of Supportive care costs.

Research and Education
The goal of the Supportive Care Consult Service is to ensure compassionate, comprehensive care for cancer patients. The team also works to improve the practice of cancer care locally and nationally by participating in research programs and providing continuing education to health professionals.