



CAMBIA PCCE ANNOUNCEMENT

UW Medicine hospitals achieve Joint Commission Advanced Certification in Palliative Care



The Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence at the University of Washington is pleased to announce that in March 2016, all four UW Medicine hospitals—Harborview Medical Center, Northwest Hospital and Medical Center, University of Washington Medical Center and Valley Medical Center—achieved Joint Commission Advanced Certification in Palliative Care. UW Medicine is the first healthcare system in the country to have all of its hospitals achieve this certification.

“This important accomplishment honors the work of the palliative care providers and staff at all four UW Medicine hospitals,” said J. Randall Curtis, director of the Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence. “They have worked toward this certification for past couple of years, and achieving it is key to the Center’s mission of ensuring all UW Medicine patients with serious illness—and their families—receive the best possible palliative care.”

During the certification process, all four UW Medicine hospitals demonstrated strong interdisciplinary clinical care and teaching. Staff developed and implemented a quality metrics program that supports all four hospitals. Many palliative care team members were centrally involved with preparing for this certification.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits nearly 21,000 healthcare organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. To earn and maintain The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval®, an organization undergoes an on-site survey by a Joint Commission survey team at least every three years. UW Medical Center became the first hospital in Washington state to be certified in palliative care in 2014 and was recertified in 2015 and again in 2016.

The Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence was founded in 2012 to improve palliative care delivery and quality among patients with serious illness and their family members. The Center serves patients throughout the UW Medicine system and the region, and provides support to clinicians who treat these patients. The Center was named after the Cambia Health Foundation in 2014 in recognition of their support and partnership.

UW Medicine’s mission is to improve the health of the public by advancing medical knowledge, providing patient care, and training the next generation of health professionals. Our system includes Harborview Medical Center, Northwest Hospital & Medical Center, Valley Medical Center, UW Medical Center, UW Neighborhood Clinics, UW Physicians, UW School of Medicine and Airlift Northwest.