

Harold and Shirley Lederman Palliative Care Centre (“16P”)

The palliative care centre is a 12-bed unit located on the 16th floor of Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (PM) that provides pain and symptom management, emotional, social and spiritual care. The palliative care centre is a **short-stay acute palliative care unit (PCU)** and is commonly referred to as “16P”. When patients stabilize, they are either transferred home with home care support or to external palliative care facilities (PCUs and hospices). According to patient/family needs, the team may include physicians, nurses, advanced practice nurses (APN), pharmacists, social workers, spiritual care professionals, music therapists, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists.

Admission Criteria

1. Patients must have a diagnosis of **advanced cancer**
2. Patients will not receive systemic anti-cancer therapies (with the exception of oral) or radium treatment during admission to the 16P.

Reasons for admission include:

- *Pain and symptom management*
 - when symptoms cannot be managed in the patient’s current healthcare setting
 - it is possible to provide the following interventions for symptom management if appropriate: palliative radiotherapy, intravenous hydration, intravenous antibiotics, g-tube feeds, blood products
 - example of treatments we do not provide are radium treatment and systemic anti-cancer therapies (with the exception of oral)

Note: Parenteral nutrition can be continued on 16P if patients are stabilized on it.

- *End-of-life care*
 - when the needs of the patient and their loved ones require an interprofessional palliative approach
 - estimated prognosis is less than two weeks
- *Transition to external palliative care facility*
 - admitted from their current location to await transfer to an external palliative care facility
 - patients will be transferred directly to an accepting external palliative care facility (from one of the facilities chosen by the patient/power of attorney (POA)/substitute decision maker (SDM)) if medically stable when the first available bed offer comes through

Process for Admission

1. The patient (or POA/SDM) will provide informed consent to being placed on the wait list for admission to the 16P. This includes documentation in the patient's medical record that the patient (or POA/SDM) acknowledges, understands, and appreciates the admission criteria and process.
2. Admission requests between Monday to Friday 09:00 and 17:00 are made by contacting the 16P Admission Staff through UHN Webpaging or PM Switchboard (416-946-2000). Admission requests Monday to Friday after 17:00 and weekends/holidays are made by contacting the PM palliative care staff physician on call through UHN Webpaging or PM Switchboard (416-946-2000). **As per the UHN Transfer of Accountability policy, patient transfers must occur within 1 hour of patient handover.**
3. Patients from Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital or Mount Sinai Hospital emergency departments who are already on the 16P wait list for admission do not need to be re-assessed by the palliative care consult team to arrange admission to the 16P. These patients already meet the 16P admission criteria. The emergency department physician can check if patients are on the wait list by contacting the PM Flow Coordinator (Monday – Friday 08:00 - 16:00) or PM Administrator On Site (Weekdays after 16:00, weekends or holidays).