

The NCP Guidelines, 4th edition, are organized into 8 domains:

Domain 1: Structure and Processes of Care

The composition of an interdisciplinary team is outlined, including the professional qualifications, education, training, and support needed to deliver optimal patient- and family-centered care. Domain 1 also defines the elements of the palliative care assessment and care plan, as well as systems and processes specific to palliative care.

Domain 2: Physical Aspects of Care

The palliative care assessment, care planning, and treatment of physical symptoms are described, emphasizing patient- and family-directed holistic care.

Domain 3: Psychological and Psychiatric Aspects

The domain focuses on the processes for systematically assessing and addressing the psychological and psychiatric aspects of care in the context of serious illness.

Domain 4: Social Aspects of Care

Domain 4 outlines the palliative care approach to assessing and addressing patient and family social support needs.

Domain 5: Spiritual, Religious, and Existential Aspects of Care

The spiritual, religious, and existential aspects of care are described, including the importance of screening for unmet needs.

Domain 6: Cultural Aspects of Care

The domain outlines the ways in which culture influences both palliative care delivery and the experience of that care by the patient and family, from the time of diagnosis through death and bereavement.

Domain 7: Care of the Patient Nearing the End of Life

This domain focuses on the symptoms and situations that are common in the final days and weeks of life.

Domain 8: Ethical and Legal Aspects of Care

Content includes advance care planning, surrogate decision-making, regulatory and legal considerations, and related palliative care issues, focusing on ethical imperatives and processes to support patient autonomy.