# THE PROVINCIAL PALLIATIVE CONSULTATION LINE

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### • 1-877-711-5757

- Communities in BC, Yukon and NWT
- Advice service to physicians and nurse practitioners with no other access to specialist palliative care physicians
- No orders or prescribing
- Open 24/7 half the calls evenings and weekends

#### • Most common reasons for calls:

- Symptom management (e.g. pain management)
- Support with decision making (e.g. goals of care)
- Review difficult case (e.g. complex, multiple issues)

#### • Most common locations of clients:

- Half in community settings
- Half in hospitals
- Calls from rural ERs also growing

### • Average lengths of calls:

• 30 – 60 minutes

### EXAMPLE CASE

- 70F outpatient rural BC community. GP called for advice regarding symptoms.
- Metastatic lung cancer to brain, bone and liver. PPS 40%.
- symptoms: pain, nausea
- Prognosis: weeks
- GofC/Disposition: DNR-M2 symptom management and treat reversible issues at home/as an outpatient if possible. Resources available in community to manage at home.

## EXAMPLE CASE

- Review potential causes and management of symptoms
- Medication review
- Ensure have enough information in order to give advice
- Advice given regarding management
- "While cannot give advice specific to your client, if I had a similar client in my care..."
- GP agreed with advice around management and planned to implement
- Call back prn

### 1-877 LINE

#### • Partnership between:

• Doctors of BC – pay for the cost of answering service

#### and

 Vancouver Home Hospice on call physicians – staff the line (no funding for; physicians cover line when on call for Vancouver community)

## 1-877 LINE

### • Challenges:

- Physician attending to Vancouver calls/visits and 1-877 line call comes in (progressively busier)
- Vancouver physician familiarity with local community/hospital services



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### FAQ

Why is the 1-877 line only open to physicians and nurse practitioners?Why is this not an on call service?Why not use the RACE line?What does a call from Vancouver community involve?