

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS FROM

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Focus of the Study: Palliative Care for Advanced-Stage Lung Cancer

Advanced-stage lung cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in Kentucky. Patients with advanced-stage lung cancer could benefit from using a service called “palliative care” while receiving lung cancer treatment. But most patients never receive this service. The goal of this study was to identify strategies for increasing access to palliative care.

What we learned:

We surveyed 77 advanced-stage lung cancer patients, 60 cancer providers, and 17 hospital administrators from the Markey Cancer Center and the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network and Affiliate Research Network. The results highlighted the need to discuss palliative care as part of routine patient care, the need to provide education on how it differs from hospice, and the need to ask patients about their palliative care needs (for example, a patient’s concerns about symptoms).



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18%

of patients thought they knew what palliative care was.



58%

of patients said they would use palliative care if their doctor recommended it.



46%

of cancer providers were interested in tools to identify patients in high need of palliative care.



Let’s debunk myths

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness, such as cancer or heart failure.

- Palliative care is **not** the same as hospice. It should be delivered alongside cancer treatment
- It does **not** mean someone is “giving up.” It means they are doing everything they can to manage cancer and live fully.



Future Direction

We are currently piloting an intervention to address patient, provider, and administrator-reported barriers to palliative care.