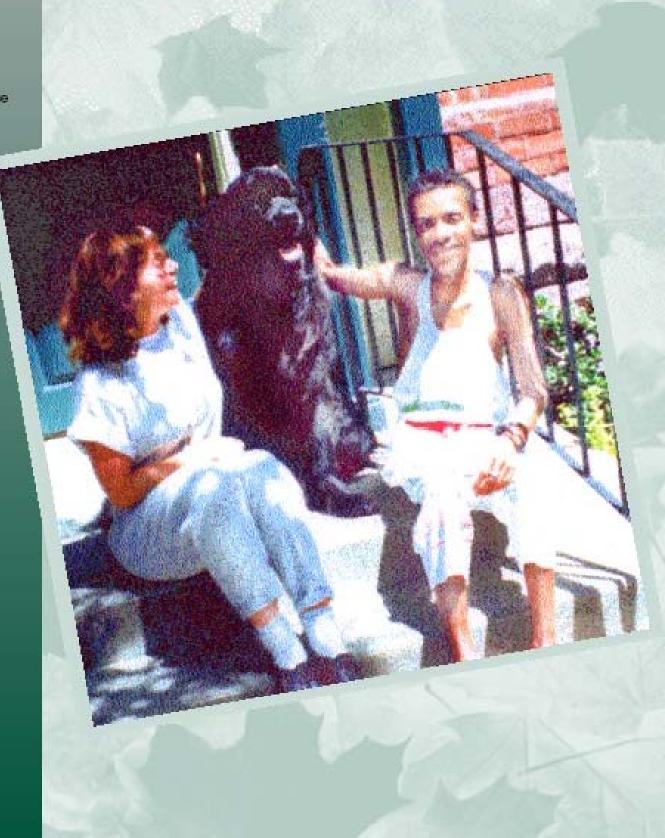




Casey House Hospice

Aodule 4: Palliative Ca

# A Comprehensive Guide for the Care of Persons with HIV Disease



## **Acknowledgments**

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

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### Introduction

This Module is designed for caregiving professionals of all disciplines who seek to enhance their skill at providing Palliative Care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Those living with HIV/AIDS, their family, volunteer caregivers and friends seeking information for their use, should refer to Living with Dying, Dying at Home (see Resources)

# HOW TO USE THIS MODULE

Palliative Care for persons living with HIV/AIDS is the unification of science, compassion and spirituality. This Module endeavors to reflect this vital union. Contrary to what many believe, there is no specific time for Palliative Care. Throughout its trajectory, advanced HIV disease presents continuing challenges for all, but experience proves that those knowledgeable in Palliative Care can relieve the intense, broad suffering of persons living with the disease. The result can be a unique experience respectful of each individual and healing to those he/she loves. This Module endeavors to strengthen the skills that make this experience possible.

Its development brought together experts from across Canada, from every discipline and type of care setting, reaching out, listening, and including the voice of their experience. Its pages are intended to reflect the finest in concepts underlying care and practical applications in Palliative Care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

As the Module is dedicated to enhancing the care available to those living with HIV/AIDS, it was important to capture their perspectives, as well as those of their families, friends and partners. To do this, various informal forums were organized through AIDS and Hemophilia organizations in Edmonton, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria. Additional sessions were held in conjunction with provincial and regional meetings in Atlantic Canada, Ontario and Quebec, and at the 1994 Rural Conference in Jasper. Their voices and experience strongly influenced the writing of the Module and specific quotations appear throughout the document.

As Palliative Care does not refer to a single discipline or one place for caring, this Module includes information for professionals in all disciplines and encompasses care in all settings.

Palliative Care professionals will find the Module helpful in increasing their awareness of HIV-specific issues; those experienced in HIV care will gain practical techniques for use in delivering Palliative Care.

To assist with access, chapters were arranged in the document as follows:

UNIFYING THEME	PURPOSE	CHAPTERS INCLUDED
HIV/AIDS and Palliative Care	This section enables readers to:  • hear the heartfelt message of persons living with HIV/AIDS  • establish a basic understanding of HIV/AIDS and obtain information on where to learn more  • review the principles and philosophy of Palliative Care and understand the significant impact HIV/AIDS has had on its practice	One Voice What is HIV/AIDS The Interrelationship of HIV/AIDS and Palliative Care

Caring for the living	These sections encompass the information caregivers need to provide care that optimizes quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS.	Quality of Life Ethics Symptom Management Activities of Daily Living Psycho-Social Issues Caring for HIV+ Substance Users Legal Issues Advance Planning Spirituality
Caring for the dying and the bereaved	These sections include information around care during the last days and hours of life, and the care for the bereaved both before and after the death of their loved one.	Last Hours of Living Funerals, Memorial Services and Rituals Grief, Loss and Bereavement
Care delivery	These sections will be of personal interest to caregivers as well as those involved organizationally in planning and providing care.	Models of Palliative Care Delivery Care for the Caregiver Issues in Occupational Exposure for HIV/AIDS Palliative Care Resources

# COPYING AND USING INFORMATION

### IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGY

Readers of this Module are encouraged to use the information contained herein not only in their own work but also to assist in educating others. See *Resources* for information on how to obtain additional copies. In addition, we actively encourage photocopying of any sections of specific interest for quick reference.

In this text, the term *caregiver* refers to any person providing care to meet the physical, psychological, social, spiritual expectations and needs of the person and family. In the following pages, caregiver is used primarily to refer to paid providers of services. Whenever it is relevant to refer to unpaid or volunteer providers of care, the terms volunteer caregiver, volunteer or unpaid caregiver will be used.

The word *partner* is used to refer to a person of either sex who is involved in an intimate relationship with another person. Individuals could be married, living common-law or dating, in a gay, lesbian or heterosexual relationship.

*Family* is used throughout this document, and refers to those closest in knowledge, care and affection to the person living with HIV/AIDS. It is specifically inclusive of:

- family of origin birth parents, siblings
- family of acquisition relations by marriage or contract
- family of choice anyone the person chooses to have close to them

An *interdisciplinary team* is a team of caregivers from different backgrounds and professional disciplines, and sometimes via linkages or contracted arrangements from different programs or services, who work together to deliver Palliative Care services to the individual and/or family.

These definitions are based on those developed by the Canadian Palliative Care Association, as part of their standards development process.<sup>1</sup> They were chosen for use in this document for their inclusivity of all those involved in caring.

Every effort has been made to be gender neutral. In the event that the terms *he*, *she*, *him* or *her* have been inadvertently used alone – except where a sex is relevant to the reference, as with "A mother caring for her child" – consider such references to refer equally to persons of either gender.

Thoughout the text, generic names for the medications have been used. At times, trade names have been included for unfamiliar generics. For additional trade names, see the *Medication Table*, *Appendix B*.

HIV/AIDS has challenged Palliative Care in Canada to grow and fulfill the broadest aspects of its mandate. This Module is inspired by that challenge, reflects the response of experienced caregivers, and presents a challenge of its own: fulfill Palliative Care's mission to care by bringing together science, practical compassion and gifts of the spirit in all you do. See the world as it occurs for others, without bias or fear, and your caring will bring healing to those living and dying with HIV/AIDS and those they leave behind.

### REFERENCES

 Ferris FD, Cummings I, (eds). Palliative care: towards a consensus in standardized principles of practices (first phase Working document). Ottawa, ON: The Canadian Palliative Care Association, 1995 (in press)