# PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM

**DESCRIPTION**
The Palliative Care Team provides holistic palliative care for the critically, chronically, and terminally ill, or for injured persons in medical facilities, hospice, alternative care sites, and home care settings. After a mass casualty incident, this capability can support victims not expected to survive by minimizing suffering and facilitating patient-family end-of-life interactions.

**RESOURCE CATEGORY**
Medical and Public Health

**RESOURCE KIND**
Team

**OVERALL FUNCTION**
The Palliative Care Team provides a range of services in a variety of settings, noted above. This team:
1. Provides end-of-life medical services, comfort, specialty pain management and support, including hydration and nutrition
2. Provides specialty pain management, other symptom control, and psychological/behavioral health guidance for patients
3. Provides guidance, training, and psychological support to caregivers, to help them adapt to the current situation
4. Supports family members and other loved ones, including through end-of-life and bereavement counseling
5. Provides support and training to the patient, family members, and other loved ones
6. Assists the patient, family, and staff with difficult medical decisions and identification of treatment options
7. Serves as a professional resource on palliative care guidelines and parameters

**COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS**
1. Discuss logistics for deploying this team, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment
2. This team typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days
3. Responding personnel have the clinical knowledge and skill to function in the clinical area as the incident demands
4. Requestor orders a Healthcare Resource Coordination Team to supplement clinical staff and support administrative, communications, team transportation, housing, clerical (medical records), security/safety, supply, and medical equipment maintenance and repair needs
5. Staffing requests consider patient census, patient acuity, and the types of skilled interventions necessary
6. Requestor verifies the existence of potentially hazardous conditions
7. To ensure that staff, equipment, and supplies fit the need, requests for assistance define the clinical area, specify required specialty services, and give an accurate mission assignment, including the expected practice setting
8. Requestor orders a Physician Assistant or a Nurse Practitioner to augment this team's capabilities
9. Requestor identifies who this team will coordinate with, such as coroner's office, appropriate Emergency Support Functions (ESP), or hospital network
10. Requestor and provider discuss needed capabilities:
   a. Type 1 teams have supplies and personnel to establish Palliative Care Team services within an alternate care facility
   b. Type 2 teams provide staff augmentation within established facilities and use the facility's supplies, medications, and equipment
11. Requestor agrees to accept all credentials of provider's team members, allowing supplied team to function in existing facilities
Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>TYPE 1</th>
<th>TYPE 2</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MINIMUM PERSONNEL PER TEAM</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT PERSONNEL PER TEAM</td>
<td>Same as Type 2</td>
<td>1 – National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Medical Team Leader</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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| SUPPORT PERSONNEL PER TEAM                    | Same as Type 2, PLUS:  
1 – NIMS Type 1 Pharmacist  
1 – NIMS Type 1 Dietitian/Nutritionist  
1 – NIMS Type 1 or 2 Behavioral Health Specialist  
1 – NIMS Behavioral Health Chaplaincy Specialist  
1 – NIMS Type 2 Registered Nurse  
2 – NIMS Type 3 Registered Nurse | 1 – NIMS Type 1 Medical Officer  
1 – NIMS Type 1 Social Worker  
1 – NIMS Type 2 Registered Nurse  
2 – NIMS Type 3 Registered Nurse  
4 – NIMS Type 1 Patient Care Technician | 1. Teams have operational competence in palliative care protocols and in working with an existing palliative care team.  
2. NIMS Type 2 Registered Nurses have certifications in palliative care. |
| MEDICAL SUPPLIES PER TEAM                      | Specialized palliative care and hospice medical equipment, supplies, and medications to operate in an alternative care site or healthcare facility without established palliative or hospice care services, including:  
1. Pain medication/administration  
2. Wound care  
3. Hospice kits | Not Specified | 1. Requestor orders equipment per team or per team member.  
2. For Type 2 teams, requestor orders equipment based on the facility a team will deploy to. |
| PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PER TEAM MEMBER | Same as Type 2 | PPE is mission specific and may vary by work environment, including:  
1. Protective footwear  
2. Protective clothing for skin exposure  
3. Eye and ear protection  
4. Respirators  
5. Gloves  
| COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PER TEAM MEMBER       | Same as Type 2 | 1. Two-way portable radio  
2. Cell phone | Consider alternate forms of communications, such as satellite phones, based on the mission assignment and team needs. |
NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Healthcare Resource Coordination Team, pending publication
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Medical Team Leader, pending publication
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Medical Officer, pending publication
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Behavioral Health Specialist, pending publication
5. FEMA, NIMS 509: Dietitian/Nutritionist, pending publication
6. FEMA, NIMS 509: Patient Care Technician, pending publication
7. FEMA, NIMS 509: Pharmacist, pending publication
8. FEMA, NIMS 509: Registered Nurse, pending publication
9. FEMA, NIMS 509: Social Worker, pending publication
10. FEMA, NIMS 509: Behavioral Health Chaplaincy Specialist, pending publication