

Palliative Care

Palliative care is specialised medical care focused on improving the quality of life for patients and families facing serious, chronic, or life-threatening illnesses.

Climate impact on palliative care

Climate relevance :

- Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, droughts, and intense storms increase the need for the need for hospice and palliative care

Climate consequences

- Rising respiratory illnesses,
- Heat-related issues,
- Waterborne diseases, &
- Aggravated chronic conditions

Climate concerns

Concerns in low income contexts

- Worsens poverty
- Low nurse-to-patient ratio
- Food insecurity
- Displacement of patients
- Inaccessibility to patients
- Increase morbidity and mortality

Possible interventions

- Community care and support
- Increase social cohesion and support

What can Psychology do?

Interventions:

- Emergency debriefing services
- Dignity therapy
- Trauma counselling
- Increase funding for community-based care
- Engage the government to support carers

What do we need?

Advocate to include psychology professionals in palliative care
Reconfigure access to palliative care
Climate justice for marginalised groups

Poster by Fatima Peters

Reference: Get Palliative Care (2026). What is Palliative Care?

<https://getpalliativecare.org/whatis/#:~:text=This%20gives%20you%20more%20control,every%20step%20of%20the%20way.>

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CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND PSYCHOLOGY

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