

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	<p>The Palliative Care Team provides a range of services in a variety of settings, noted above. This team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
EQUIPMENT PER TEAM MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS	Same as Type 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Superseded

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
EQUIPMENT PER TEAM MEMBER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	Same as Type 2	Personal Protective Equipment (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 6. Masks	The following standards address PPE: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.134: Respiratory Protection and OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.1030: Bloodborne Pathogens.
PERSONNEL PER TEAM MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT	Same as Type 2	1 - National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Medical Team Leader	Not Specified
PERSONNEL PER TEAM MINIMUM	17	10	Not Specified
PERSONNEL PER TEAM SUPPORT	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.
SUPPLIES PER TEAM MEDICAL	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.

Superseded



NOTES

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

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Healthcare Resource Coordination Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Medical Team Leader
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Medical Officer
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Behavioral Health Specialist
5. FEMA, NIMS 509: Dietitian/Nutritionist
6. FEMA, NIMS 509: Patient Care Technician
7. FEMA, NIMS 509: Pharmacist
8. FEMA, NIMS 509: Registered Nurse
9. FEMA, NIMS 509: Social Worker
10. FEMA, NIMS 509: Behavioral Health Chaplaincy Specialist
11. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.134: Respiratory Protection, latest edition adopted
12. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.1030: Bloodborne Pathogens, latest edition adopted

Superseded