



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Palliative Medicine Subspecialty Program

The Palliative Medicine Subspecialty Program at the University of Calgary is accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Program curriculum

The Palliative Medicine Subspecialty program is a two-year program leading to certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The overall goal of the program is to provide the training needed for physicians to develop excellence in comprehensive and compassionate palliative care for patients with complex palliative needs across a wide range of care settings. Program rotations include Inpatient and Outpatient Consults, the tertiary Intensive Palliative Care Unit, Hospice, Community Palliative Care, Advanced Cardiac Disease, Advanced Kidney Disease, Advanced Lung Disease, Advanced Neurological Disease, Critical Care Medicine, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Psychosocial Oncology, Research, Electives. There is a significant amount of flexibility built into the program to tailor rotations to specific areas of interest.

Residents will have a graded level of responsibility over the course of the program, with more support and supervision provided early on and more independence near the end of the second year, in preparation for entry into practice.

Progress in the program will be measured by structured feedback and rotation-based in-training evaluations reports (ITERs). The program will be transitioning to Competence By Design in 2022.

Program highlights

Palliative Medicine in Calgary enjoys an established, comprehensive and well-integrated palliative care service with highly collegial, collaborative clinicians. The residency program features a wide range of clinical rotations within hospital and community settings, including both malignant and non-malignant disease. In addition to learning during clinical rotations, there are a variety of academic opportunities, including weekly Academic Half-Day, Advance Practice Rounds, monthly Palliative Grand Rounds, monthly Journal Club, and monthly Educational Case Rounds. Scholarly activity is an expectation, and can be tailored to focus on research (clinical, education, health policy) or quality improvement. Dedicated time to work on an academic project is provided within the curriculum. Funding is provided to attend the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians. Residents will have the opportunity to work with a variety of dedicated faculty with enthusiasm for teaching. Many of our faculty members also have subspecialty training in a variety of medical subspecialties, research and medical education.

Training sites

1. Hospital-based (inpatient, outpatient clinics)
 - Foothills Medical Centre
 - Peter Lougheed Centre
 - Rockyview General Hospital
 - South Health Campus

2. Community

- Hospices (7 city-wide)
- Palliative homecare (urban and rural)
- Community Allied Mobile Palliative Program

Application Process

The program will participate in the CaRMS Medicine Subspecialty Match.

Inquiries

Questions about the program and/or application process can be directed to the Program Director, Dr. Amanda Roze des Ordon at amanda.rozedesordons@ucalgary.ca

