



Northern Health Palliative Care

Applying the Palliative Approach to Care with Neurodegenerative Disorders

HOT TIP
December
2017

- ◆ **Alzheimer's Disease**
- ◆ **Parkinson's Disease**
- ◆ **Multiple Sclerosis**
- ◆ **Huntington's Disease**
- ◆ **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**

Each disorder manifests differently but persons with these conditions eventually suffer similar disabilities and die from complications related to their disease.

As the disease progresses, the symptoms increase the patient's need for assistance with their ADLs.

Palliative Care is **Active Care**

Priorities for Care

- ◆ Treat pain and dyspnea.
- ◆ Treat muscle weakness and spasticity.
- ◆ Manage dysphagia, oral secretions, communication difficulties.
- ◆ Partner with your multidisciplinary team to help make modifications to improve quality of life.

References: NH Hospice Palliative Care Program (2008): Symptom Management Guidelines, 2nd Ed.
www.huntingtonsociety.ca