

# **Pain and palliative care model takes patient from inpatient to discharge**

*Follow-up treatment is important*

The University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview follows a multidisciplinary model for taking care of patients experiencing pain.

The model, called Mid-Level Practitioner Model for Pain and Palliative Care Services-Clinical Pharmacy Services, is illustrated in a flow chart that begins with Ridges Hospital where the patient enters into a clinical care setting and continues as follows:

- The patient sees a physician who makes a diagnosis and determines whether medication therapy is required; if there is no need for a consult, the patient next sees a clinical pharmacist manager.
- The clinical pharmacist manager refers patient cases to staff clinical pharmacists for appropriate interventions and coordination of medication therapy.
- Clinical pharmacists will determine the following:
  - the right drug for patient;
  - drug dose and frequency;
  - drug interactions;
  - safety issues;
  - compliance factors;
  - patient education needs;
  - need for referral to pain and palliative care consult service to address complex pain medication therapy regimens;

The physician and clinical pharmacists also can send the patient to prevention/wellness screening or inpatient pain/palliative care service.

- At the inpatient pain/palliative care service, the nurse practitioner or pharmacist will provide a consult for pain or palliative care, collaborate with the social worker and spiritual health services, and provide a discharge reconciliation of pain and symptom medications and clinic follow-up. The patient is discharged.
- Once discharged, the patient receives outpatient pain and palliative care, which include the following:
  - nurse practitioner or pharmacist evaluation of pain or palliative care;
  - discharge follow-up services for pain or palliative care;
  - consult service at clinic site;
  - medication therapy management in concordance with individual patient treatment plans for pain or palliative care;
  - pre-operative pain management plans for complex patients undergoing surgery at Ridges Hospital.