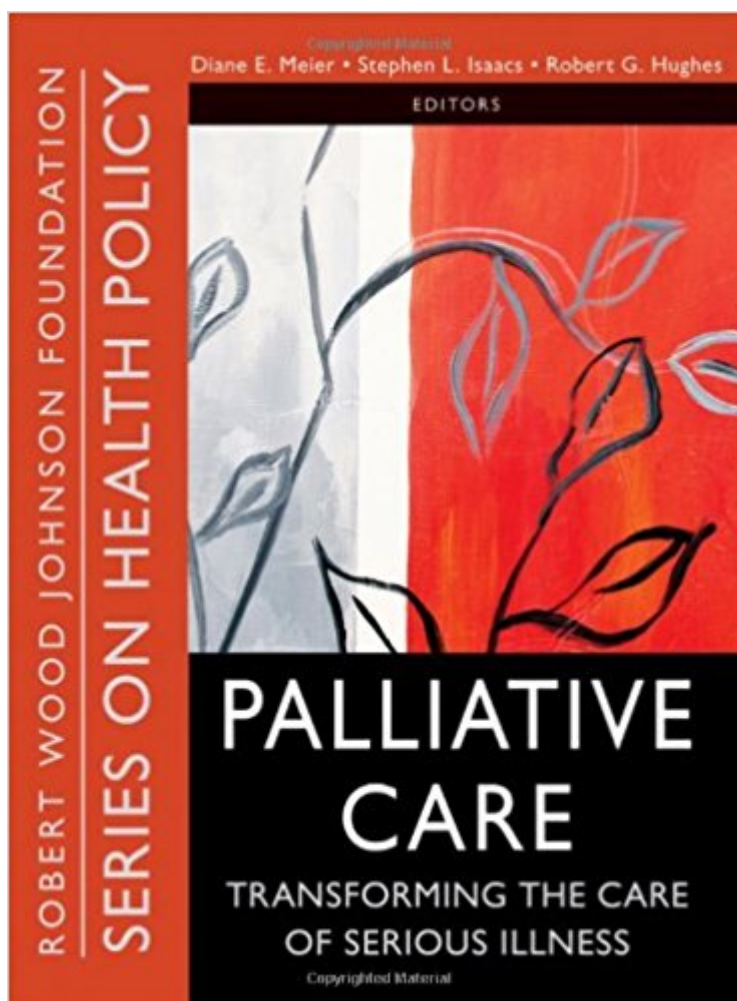


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# Palliative Care: Transforming The Care Of Serious Illness



## Synopsis

Palliative Care is the first book to provide a comprehensive understanding of the new field that is transforming the way Americans deal with serious illness. Diane E. Meier, M.D., one of the field's leaders and a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius award" in 2009, opens the volume with a sweeping overview of the field. In her essay, Dr. Meier examines the roots of palliative care, explores the key legal and ethical issues, discusses the development of palliative care, and presents ideas on policies that can improve access to palliative care. Dr. Meier's essay is followed by reprints of twenty-five of the most important articles in the field. They range from classic pieces by some of the field's pioneers, such as Eric Cassel, Balfour Mount, and Elizabeth KÃ bler-Ross, to influential newer articles on topics such as caregiving and cost savings of palliative care. The reprints cover a wide range of topics including: Why the care of the seriously ill is so important Efforts to cope with advanced illness Legal and ethical issues Pain management Cross-cultural issues Philosophical perspective The demand for palliative care has been nothing short of stunning&#151;largely because of palliative care's positive impact on both the quality and the cost of care provided to seriously ill individuals. By providing a wide-ranging perspective on this growing field, this book will serve as a guide for developing meaningful approaches that will lead to better health care for all Americans.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Diane E. Meier, M.D., is director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care and director of the Lilian

and Benjamin Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute, Professor of Geriatrics and Internal Medicine, and Catherine Gaisman Professor of Medical Ethics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. Stephen L. Isaacs, J.D., is a partner in Isaacs/Jellinek, a San Francisco-based consulting firm. Robert G. Hughes, Ph.D., is vice president and chief learning officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Palliative care, according to the text, is increasingly integrated with all of medicine and is broadening beyond the hospice setting. As a textbook, or a medical reference manual, the book is appropriate. But, for general reading and an accurate picture for what actually happens in most medical delivery settings, it is lacking. The opiate death affliction and the benzodiazepine prescribing lack of precaution has poisoned the atmosphere for prescriptive palliative care for many years into the future. In fact the new hysteria initiating prescriber fear leaves many patients suffering. The heightened pharmacological conservatism also leaves valuable treatment modes not distributed, as with Ketamine. The extensive treatment of the palliative care subject in the book, still fails to address the role of politics in medical treatment and its reasoned judgment of the close interaction between doctor and patient.

A great book about palliative care! Thank you!

Just what I needed to get started in this exciting area.

arrived as promised, thanks!

This is a detailed walk through healthcare policy as it relates to palliative care, a book that stimulates discussion. I remain hopeful our society can evolve into a culture of embracing end of life care by addressing pain and suffering, as well as patient's real wishes and away from our current focus on aggressive treatments that simply prolong their dying.

The text is organized well. .

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