

What is Hospice Care?

Hospice is a special **concept of care** designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatments.

Today, one out of three people in the United States choose hospice care when they are dying. Families need to understand hospice care and the steps necessary to access this quality end-of-life option.



Assisted Living
in the Privacy
and Comfort
of Your Own
Home

What do I do when we decide to use hospice?

Before providing care, hospice staff meets with the patient's personal physician(s) and a hospice physician to discuss patient history, current physical symptoms and life expectancy.

After an initial meeting with physicians, hospice staff meets with both the patient and their family. They discuss the hospice philosophy, available services and expectations.

Prior to service, staff and patients also discuss pain and comfort levels, support systems, financial and insurance resources, medications and equipment needs.

A care plan is developed for the patient. This plan is regularly reviewed and revised according to patient condition.

Who pays for hospice care?

Medicare

Hospice care is a covered benefit under Medicare for patients with a prognosis of six months or less. A patient can remain in hospice care beyond six months if a physician re-certifies that the patient is terminally ill.

Medicaid

Almost all states and the District of Columbia offer hospice coverage under Medicaid. Your hospice provider will be able to tell you if you live in a state where the hospice Medicaid benefit exists.

Private Insurance

Many private health insurance policies and HMO's offer hospice coverage and benefits.

For more information call:
708-786-8600



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