

Hospice

What is Hospice?

- Hospice care focuses on quality and dignity by providing comfort, care and support services to terminally ill people and their families. This care is provided when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatment.

Who pays for Hospice?

- Medicare Hospice Benefit
- Medicaid Hospice Benefit
- Veterans Hospice Benefit
- Other private insurance plans.
- For those without insurance, benefits may be provided on a sliding-fee scale

Questions to ask your doctor to see if Hospice is an appropriate decision:

- Is the life expectancy 6 months or less if the diagnosis were to run its normal course?
- Can the diagnosis be reversed?
- Are there any other treatments available that would help prolong or slow down progression?

Where can Hospice services be received?

- Home
- Nursing Facility
- Assisted Living
- Hospice inpatient facility

Common Misconceptions of Hospice:

- Being on Hospice means “giving up” on the person.
 - When cure is no longer available, comfort care can be provided. Hospice’s goal is to decrease pain, control symptoms while the diagnosis progresses naturally.
- Hospice means a person will pass away within 6 months.
 - In order to qualify for Hospice, a person must have a prognosis of six months or less if their diagnosis runs its normal course. However, that does not mean a person WILL pass away within that timeframe. Many people remain on Hospice longer, if they continue to meet criteria.
- Once a person is enrolled in Hospice, they are enrolled forever.
 - No, a person can decide to opt-out of services at any time.