

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR HOSPICE?

You are eligible for hospice if:

- Your doctor would say that you have a life-limiting diagnosis of 6 months or less.
- The goal of care is treating your symptoms and maximizing your quality of life.

People often wait too long before talking about hospice. Bringing it up before you need it will allow you to make sure that your family and doctors know and understand your wishes.

- You will continue to receive care for other conditions.
- You will continue to receive medications that are appropriate to maintain comfort.
- You will be able to maintain contact with your oncology team and your regular doctor.
- You will receive emotional, psychological, and spiritual support.
- Your family will have access to caregiving and spiritual support.

The focus is on treating you, rather than the cancer.

## WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF ME WHILE I AM IN HOSPICE?

A family member or friend may be your main caregiver. In addition, the following professionals are available to you while in hospice:

- Nurse
- Aide
- Hospice physician
- Dietician
- Social worker
- Spiritual counselor

## HOW IS HOSPICE COVERED?

Most hospice services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. No patient is refused based on ability to pay. A copay may be required for some services. Your hospice team will tell you if any additional payments will be required.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

You can cancel at any time for any reason and re-enroll when ready.

**Ask your oncologist for information about hospices in your area.**

# What should I know about HOSPICE?





## WHY HOSPICE?

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- You will continue to receive medications that are appropriate to maintain comfort.
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- You will receive emotional, psychological, and spiritual support.
- Your family will have access to caregiving and spiritual support, and grief support.

## WHEN?

You should choose hospice when:

- You want quality of life versus quantity of treatment.
- Treatment feels more like a burden.
- You and your physician have decided that there is no meaningful improvement from cancer treatment.
- Side effects of cancer treatment outweigh the benefit.
- You know how you want to live in this part of your life's journey.
- You have talked with your family and they respect and honor your decision.

Hospice is about quality and meaning of life.

## WHAT SERVICES ARE COVERED IN HOSPICE?

- Medications, medical equipment, and supplies. Any medications that you need for your comfort will be provided by hospice.
- Short-term inpatient care at approved facilities for symptoms that cannot be controlled at home.
- Temporary care away from home, also called respite care. The care must be provided at an approved facility.

Many hospices have volunteers for companionship. Some hospices offer music, massage, and/or pet therapy. Talk to your hospice provider about the services that are most meaningful to you.

## WHERE IS HOSPICE PROVIDED?

Care is usually provided at your home, or at the home of a family member, or the home of a friend. When you are being taken care of at home, your caregivers can contact the hospice 24 hours, 7 days a week by telephone for support.

Hospice care can also be provided at the following places:

- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)
- Assisted Living Facility (ALF)
- Adult Foster Care (AFC)
- Hospice House

When you choose hospice, you will continue to receive the highest quality of care.

