

Senior Resources Navigation Notes...

Starting Hospice is about comfort, support and care.

At the center of hospice and palliative care is the belief that each of us has the right to die pain-free and with dignity, and that our families will receive the necessary support to allow us to do so.



Palliative care is for anyone with a serious illness. You may need care at any age and any stage of an illness, and you may wish to access palliative care along with curative treatment. It is not dependent on prognosis.

Hospice is an important Medicare benefit that provides palliative care for terminally ill patients who may have only months to live. People who receive hospice are no longer receiving curative treatment for their underlying disease.

Hospice Care is a team oriented approach to expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. Support is provided to the patient's loved ones as well.

Hospice focuses on caring, not curing and can be provided where the patient is living. Hospice services are available to patients of any age, religion, race or illness.

Hospice care is covered under Medicare, Medicaid, most private insurance plans, HMOs and other managed care organizations.

Typically, members of the hospice staff make regular visits to assess the patient and provide additional care or other services not provided by the primary caregiver. The hospice team develops a care plan that meets each patient's individual needs for pain management and symptom control.

Hospice services can include assisting the patient with the emotional and psychosocial and spiritual aspects of dying; teaching the family how to care for the patient; and providing bereavement care and counseling to surviving family members and friends.

Hospice services can be provided by a for-profit, a non-profit agency or be a program under-the-umbrella of a larger agency (hospital, home care company).

Want help navigating the system? Call Senior Resources Agency on Aging

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