

Hospice Care

Information Sheet



What is hospice care?

Hospice care is a type of care for people in the last stages of a serious illness.

Hospice care is provided to patients to control pain and other symptoms so that the patient can be as comfortable as possible near the end of life.

Hospice care focuses on caring, not curing.

Who gets hospice care?

Hospice care is for a person who is expected to have six months or less to live.

Who decides if hospice care is right for me?

You, your family and your doctor decide if hospice care is right for you.

Where do I go for hospice care?

Hospice care usually takes place at home. If not at your home, hospice care can be given in special facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes.

Who will I see for my hospice care?

You and your hospice team will make a care plan specially designed for you. Hospice care will focus on your goals, while providing support to your family. A member of the hospice team is usually on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A hospice care team can include:

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Therapists
- Home health aides
- Family members
- Close friends

If a family member or close friend is acting as your caregiver, the hospice care team will work with them to make sure all of your needs are addressed.



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How does hospice care help me at the end of life?

The end of life can be full of different emotions. Some people feel hopeless and overwhelmed when they are told medical treatment can no longer help them.



Hospice care:

- Emphasizes the quality of your life during your remaining days, weeks or months
- Focuses on the person, not just the disease
- Provides relief from physical, emotional and spiritual pain
- Provides grief support for loved ones

Hospice care is full of compassion and caring. Hospice care does not mean giving up; it just means that the goal of the treatment has changed.

Is hospice care permanent?

No. If a patient's health improves you can stop using hospice care and start active treatment.

Where can I get more information?

The American Hospice Foundation can help you find resources for grieving and other end of life emotions and can help you locate a hospice in your local area.

Phone: 1-800-347-1413

Website: www.americanhospice.org

The National Cancer Institute provides accurate and up-to-date information about cancer types, prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and end of life care.

Phone: 1-800-4CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

Website: www.cancer.gov

For more local information, please contact:

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Carbone Cancer Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
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ruralcancernetwork.org



**Cancer Health
Disparities Initiative**

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