

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR HOSPICE CARE?**

Hospice is available for patients with a life expectancy of six months or less, as determined by a doctor and the hospice medical director.

### **WHO PROVIDES HOSPICE CARE?**

Hospice care is provided by doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, home health aides, bereavement counselors and volunteers. This group is referred to as an interdisciplinary team, which is headed by a medical director.

### **WHO DECIDES WHETHER I GO ON HOSPICE SERVICE?**

The individual who needs the care. The decision is made together with the individual, their doctor and loved ones. After hospice services begin, a decision to stop care can be made at any time should the individual and their loved ones decide to seek curative treatments for the life-limiting illness.

### **WHAT SERVICES DOES HOSPICE PROVIDE?**

Hospice services are personalized for the needs of patients and families. Medicare rules require all approved hospice providers to offer a common minimum set of services.

- Doctor and on-call nursing care
- Home medical equipment and personal supplies
- Expert pain management, including pain medications
- Medical social services
- Spiritual care and support
- Hospice aide
- Physical, occupational, dietary and speech therapies
- Support from volunteers
- Short-term inpatient respite care (relief) for family caregivers
- Ongoing grief counseling for the patient, family and friends

### **WHO PAYS FOR HOSPICE CARE?**

Hospice is covered by Medicare, Medicare Advantage plans, Medicaid and most private insurance companies. Hospice is a financial relief for many because services related to the life-limiting illness, such as medication, equipment and supplies, are covered by hospice benefits — with few or no out-of-pocket expenses.

### **WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND AND DECIDE TO SEEK CURATIVE TREATMENT?**

It's OK. A decision to receive hospice care can be revoked. There may be times where hospice is no longer appropriate; the individual's condition improves; the family wants to seek curative treatment. It's also possible to re-apply for hospice benefits after receiving other treatment.

### **WHERE WILL I RECEIVE CARE?**

Hospice is not a specific place, it's a philosophy of care. Care is provided based on the patient's needs and situation. It can be anywhere a patient calls home, including a private residence, nursing home or group home.

### **WHAT END-STAGE ILLNESSES MIGHT A HOSPICE REFERRAL BE APPROPRIATE FOR?**

- Cancer
- Adult failure to thrive
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Heart disease or heart failure
- Liver disease
- Parkinson's disease
- COPD and another lung disease
- Stroke
- Huntington's disease
- ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease)
- Coma
- Kidney failure
- Alzheimer's disease
- Dementia
- HIV AIDS

### **HOW OFTEN WILL YOU VISIT?**

Care is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The frequency and level of care will vary based on need. The hospice team works with the individual and their doctors to create a plan of care that adapts to unique needs and priorities.

### **DOES HOSPICE SUPPORT FAMILIES AFTER THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE?**

Yes, Compassus offers a year of optional grief support. This support can begin before the death of a loved one to prepare the family and caregivers.

### **WILL MY DOCTOR STILL BE INVOLVED IN MY CARE?**

Yes. Doctors work directly with the hospice team to plan care.

### **WHAT DO I DO TO START HOSPICE CARE?**

Contact Compassus at [compassus.com/synergy](https://compassus.com/synergy) or call us at 833-661-1394.