



# YOUR GUIDE TO HOSPICE CARE



MAT-SU REGIONAL  
HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

**907-352-4800**



## **Our Mission and Philosophy**

It is our hospice mission, acting as Partners in Care with other community-based health care providers, to deliver excellent quality care and to support our hospice patients and families in their journey through the end-of-life stages.

## **How and When does Hospice Start?**

Any time is a good time to talk about hospice and become familiar with what it offers and what to expect. Making an educated decision in advance of needing hospice is the best route. Anyone may inquire about hospice care, or you may speak directly with your physician. When appropriate, a referral is made and services can begin. If you are just learning about a life-limiting illness, hospice may be the best answer for a number of reasons.

## **Hospice of Life**

Many questions and falsehoods surround the topic of hospice. Studies show that those who benefit from hospice care can live, on average, 29 days longer than those without these services. Knowing the facts will help you make the decision that's right for you.

## **Peace of Mind and Relief from Pain**

Terminal and life-limiting illnesses often cause stress due to overall uncertainty. There are difficult decisions that have to be made and uncomfortable topics that need to be addressed. Hospice helps to offer peace of mind by addressing the issues that confront the patient and family. Hospice addresses pain and symptom management in a joint effort with the patient, family, doctor and hospice team to determine the right balance and minimize side effects for optimum comfort.

## **Your Doctor Partnered with our Hospice Team**

Your trusted primary care physician remains an important part of the hospice team under hospice care. Rest assured that the individual who knows your health history best will be right there with you working through the interdisciplinary hospice team to provide the most personalized plan of care for patient and family.

## **Physical, Spiritual and Emotional Support**

Hospice strives to care for all the concerns of the patient and their loved ones. The interdisciplinary team includes your physician, clergy, nurses, hospice aides, social workers, and volunteers who together care for the patient and family physically, emotionally and spiritually. Physical support manages the patient's pain and symptoms with medications, medical supplies and equipment. Emotional support helps patient and family sort through feelings about the illness or diagnosis, death and last wishes. Spiritual support involves clergy who meet the patient's religious needs and end-of-life questions. Bereavement support is provided to loved ones dealing with grief and loss for at least 12 months.

## **Financial Benefit**

The Medicare Hospice Benefit, Medicaid Hospice Benefit and most private insurers pay for costs of hospice care related to the life-limiting illness. The Medicare benefit covers virtually all aspects of hospice care with little out-of-pocket expense to the patient or family.

## **Licensed and Accredited**

Quality care is our focus; our hospice agency is licensed by State and Federal Regulators and is accredited by CHAP, the Community Health Accreditation Program.

Receiving the medical care you need doesn't have to mean leaving your home or residence. You can receive the care you need from trusted health care professionals in your own community with our hospice care services.

Hospice care services are personalized to the specific needs of the patient and their family. Patient and doctor become part of the interdisciplinary team of nurses, hospice aides, volunteers, social workers and clergy who focus care on quality of life.

If you feel that you or someone you love could benefit from hospice care or if you have a question about hospice care services, please call us.

**We are here to help!**



Mat-Su Regional Home Care & Hospice  
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