

Frequently Asked Questions About Hospice



Families often have many concerns when considering hospice care. Here are the top five questions that are typically asked by families.

1 When is the right time to start hospice care?

Hospice is appropriate when a physician determines that a patient has a life expectancy of six months or less, if the illness follows its normal course. However, many families wait too long to seek hospice, missing out on the full range of support it provides. If curative treatment is no longer effective or desired, and the focus shifts to comfort and quality of life, it's time to consider hospice.

2 Does hospice mean giving up hope?

Not at all. Hospice shifts the focus from curing an illness to maximizing comfort, dignity, and quality of life. It offers emotional, spiritual, and physical support to patients and families, allowing them to make the most of the time they have together. Many families later express that they wish they had chosen hospice care sooner.

3 What services does hospice provide?

Hospice provides comprehensive care, including pain and symptom management, emotional and spiritual support, assistance with daily activities, respite care for caregivers, and bereavement support for families. Care is provided by a team that includes nurses, doctors, social workers, chaplains, home health aides, and trained volunteers.

4 Can my loved one continue care at home?

Yes! Most hospice patients receive care in the comfort of their own homes, assisted living, or nursing facilities.

5 How is hospice paid for?

Hospice care is covered by Medicare. Coverage includes medications, medical equipment, and hospice team visits, reducing financial stress on families.