

Patient Resource Guide: Hospice Expectations

INTRODUCTION

Hospice can be a frightening word because it is associated with the end of life. Having a better understanding of what is offered by your hospice team can help ensure you and your loved ones are able to maximize services available to you. Hospice focuses on the management of physical, emotional and spiritual needs in patients with a life limiting illness. Hospice prioritizes comfort and quality of life by attempting to reduce pain and suffering. The pathway to symptom management is centered on understanding and aligning with patient and family's goals and wishes.

THE HOSPICE TEAM

You and your loved ones will be cared for by a team that includes the following professionals:

Physician(s)	Nurses and/or Nurse Practitioners	Pharmacists	Social Workers	Chaplain
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BENEFITS OF HOSPICE THERAPY

Comprehensive Treatment Plan	Your hospice team will work to coordinate all aspects of your care, with emphasis on symptom management. The team has significant experience in this field, allowing you to focus on what is important to you
Symptom Management	Symptoms commonly managed by hospice team: -pain, nausea, constipation, agitation, anxiety
Environment of Care	Although hospice can be offered in a hospital or nursing home, it is often provided in the comfort of the patient's home. A familiar setting to the patient
Patient Goals	Understanding patient goals and preferences is essential to hospice, helping the hospice team customize care to meet patient preferences
Decreased financial burden	Under hospice, out-of-pocket medical expenses are significantly reduced as hospitalization can be avoided
Bereavement	Hospice care continues for the family after a loved one's passing with bereavement care

Contact your hospice agency for with questions or for additional information.