

HOSPICE 101

Understanding Hospice Care



Call 1.866.LHC.GROUP for more information.



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WHAT IS HOSPICE CARE?

Hospice care is available to patients with life-limiting illnesses who can no longer benefit from curative treatment and usually have a life expectancy of six months or less, as determined by a physician. Hospice focuses on patient/family-centered care that addresses the physical, spiritual, emotional, and practical needs of the patient. Services can be provided in the patient's home, nursing home, or assisted living facility.



WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM HOSPICE?

Hospice care is appropriate for anyone facing a terminal diagnosis of six months or less. Other indicators include:



- Increasing respiratory decline, oxygen-dependent
- Weight loss of 10 percent or more in six months
- Significant decline in overall health due to multiple problems
- Discontinuing aggressive treatments
- Recurrent infections/frequent hospitalization in the last six months



WHO PAYS FOR HOSPICE?

Medicare and/or Medicaid will cover the cost of hospice services for those patients who meet either program's eligibility requirements. Private insurance companies, managed-care organizations, and various other payers also cover hospice care services.

WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES DOES HOSPICE PROVIDE?

- Physician services for medical direction of the patient's care (provided by either the patient's personal physician or a physician affiliated with a hospice program)
- Regular home care visits by registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to monitor the patient's condition and provide appropriate care and maintain patient comfort
- Home health aides to attend to the patient's personal needs
- Chaplain services for the patient and/or loved ones
- Social work and counseling services
- Bereavement counseling to help patients and their loved ones with grief and loss
- Medical equipment and supplies related to the hospice diagnosis
- Medications for symptom control and pain relief
- Volunteer support to assist loved ones

