

Hospice offers a special type of care that focuses on providing you and your family with comfort, pain relief, and support services when you are expected to live six months or less. “Family” can be people related to us or those we choose to call family.

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## About Hospice Care

- Provides pain and symptom relief tailored to your needs and wishes, as well as emotional and spiritual support
- Open to people of all ages and all types of diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease, cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, HIV/AIDS, and other illnesses
- Can be provided in your home, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, hospice centers, or other places where you live
- May include respite support as well as grief counseling and other types of counseling for family members

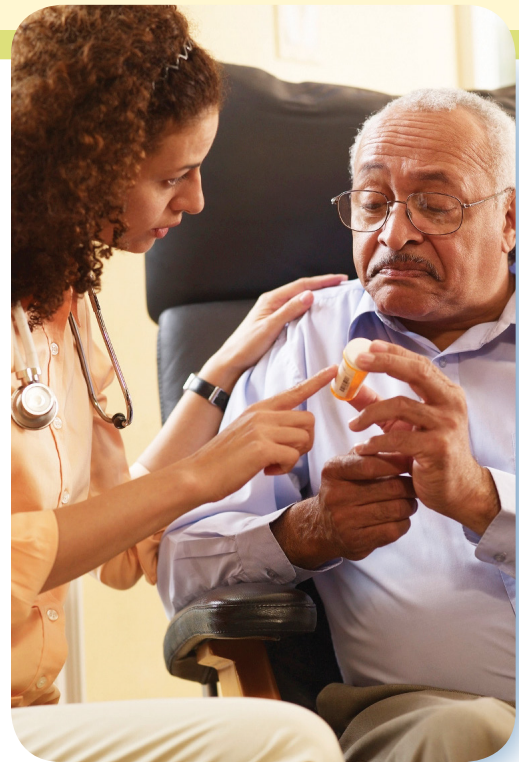
Hospice care includes doctor and nurse services; medicines; therapies; social work and clergy services; dietary and medical supplies and equipment; respite care; and management of pain and other symptoms. For community hospices, a member of the hospice team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide support and care. Hospice generally does not cover room and board in a facility, unless the person needs specialized short-term inpatient or respite care related to the terminal diagnosis. You can stop hospice at any time.

# HOSPICE CARE

**Hospice care is possible** if you are likely to die within six months if your illness goes as expected and you have a desire for your care to focus on comfort. For most health insurers, including Medicare and Medicaid, a doctor must certify a life expectancy of six months or less. If necessary, a doctor can continue to certify that a person needs hospice, even if the person lives longer than six months. All but a few state Medicaid programs cover hospice. The Veterans Health Administration covers hospice.

People often choose hospice care late in the course of illness. Many others could benefit from the physical and emotional comfort that hospice care can provide.

**Many who have lost family members wish they had asked for hospice sooner.**



## Resources

### **Hospice and Respite Care**

#### **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

Information on this benefit and how to use it

<http://www.medicare.gov/coverage/hospice-and-respite-care.html>

Medicaid beneficiaries need to consult their state's Medicaid program about hospice coverage. Find contact information for state programs at <https://www.medicaid.gov/about-us/contact-us/contact-state-page.html>.

### **CaringInfo**

#### **National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization**

Offers a variety of resources

[www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm](http://www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm)

### **Home and Community Based Services for Veterans**

Information on hospice services available to veterans

[http://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/Home\\_and\\_Community\\_Based\\_Services.asp](http://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/Home_and_Community_Based_Services.asp)