

Who is Eligible for Hospice?

Any person who has been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness of 6 months or less and is no longer responding to or seeking life sustaining treatment.

This is not to say that a patient cannot be on hospice for longer than 6 months. The patient is re-evaluated at regular intervals by the Hospice physician and Hospice team to determine if they continue to qualify for hospice based on their current prognosis.

As long as a patient has a prognosis of 6 months or less, the patient remains eligible to receive hospice care. If a patient no longer meets criteria for hospice care (is no longer terminally ill), they may be discharged and re-admitted at a later date.

Who Receives Services?

Hospice treats the whole person, not just the disease.

Hospice focuses on the needs of both the patient and the family.

Hospice addresses patient and family needs such as:

- Pain and symptom management
- Emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual support
- Help with funeral planning and arrangements
- Bereavement for family/caregivers after the patient's death

Common Myth □

Hospice is only for the last few days or weeks of a person's life.

False-Hospice care is for people who have been diagnosed with less than a 6 month life expectancy, not in their last stages of life, and not just for people who are days from death. It is much better to begin Hospice services as early as possible.



Hospice hastens death.

False-Patients receiving Hospice services do not die any sooner than they would without Hospice. A recent study of cancer and heart disease patients found that Hospice patients actually lived longer than those not receiving Hospice care.



Only a doctor can make a referral to Hospice.

False-Anyone can request an informational visit from Hospice, at no-cost and no-obligation. Prior to a formal admission to Hospice, a physician will need to evaluate the patient and make the final referral.



We encourage you to call our office anytime you have questions, concerns, or just don't understand our services or how Hospice works. Our contact information is on the back of this pamphlet, and we invite you to call us anytime.



How Care is Provided



Hospice care is provided by a team of skilled professionals who aim to manage the patient's illness and pain, but who do not treat the underlying terminal illness.

All the members of the Interdisciplinary Team meet on a regular bases to review each patient's plan of care. This is a team member's opportunity to talk about each patient in a group setting, to raise concerns, reevaluate, and inform each other of changes.

The team consists of: Patient's primary physician, Hospice physician, Hospice RN Case Manager, medical social worker, spiritual counselor, Hospice aide, Bereavement Counselor, and volunteer

Payment

Medicare • Medicaid • Private Insurance • No Coverage
Coastal Home Health & Hospice actively holds fundraisers in order to provide Hospice services to those less fortunate.

What's Included

Oxygen, Medications, Durable Medical Equipment such as an electric bed, wheelchair or walker, the Interdisciplinary Team Members and 24/7 days a week availability.



Hospice Care Diagnoses

Hospice care is not just for cancer patients. Other hospice diagnoses include but not limited to:

- End Stage Heart Disease
- End Stage Pulmonary Disease
- End Stage Renal Disease
- End Stage Liver Disease
- Dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders
- AIDS/HIV Disease
- Stroke & Coma



When is it Time for Hospice?

When the patient and family have opted for palliative treatment for a life-limiting or "terminal" illness.



Medicare guidelines require that the physician has determined that life expectancy is six months or less if the disease follows its normal course.

Signs to watch for. Has The Person:

- Been hospitalized or taken to the emergency room several times during the past 6 months?
 - Been unable to sit up without support?
- Been speaking in 6 words or less with no meaningful communication?
- Been incontinent of bowels and or their bladder?
- Been taking medication to lessen physical pain?
- Been spending most of the day in a chair or bed?
 - Fallen several times over the past 6 months?
 - Needs help from others for:
bathing, cooking, eating, dressing,
getting out of bed or walking
 - Experienced noticeable weight loss?
 - Started feeling weaker or more tired?
- Noticed shortness of breath, even while resting?

A yes to four or more of these questions demonstrates the likelihood the patient qualifies medically for hospice services.

Often times the need for hospice care goes unnoticed, especially by caregivers who are too close to the patient to effectively observe and evaluate small symptoms such as those listed above. When these symptoms or signs are combined with one another, they demonstrate an overall decline in health, and the patient should be evaluated by a professional immediately.

Making a Referral

Anyone can refer someone to Hospice:
Physician, Spouse, Parent, Child, Family Member, Neighbor or a Friend



A referral is made by contacting Coastal Home Health & Hospice phone 541-469-0405 fax 888-611-8233, or a telephone call to the person's primary physician.

Every referral made to Coastal is followed up on within 24 hours and every effort is made to meet with the patient to determine eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, a physician will need to be involved with the final admission.