

# Hospice care is comfort care

Hospice care focuses on quality of life for whatever time remains. It is an individualized plan of care for someone who has a life-limiting illness with a life expectancy of six months or less. When hospice care is chosen, curative treatments stop, and the focus becomes comfort care for the remaining months, weeks, and days.

Empyrean care teams include nurses, social workers, chaplains, aides, medical directors, and volunteers. A patient's primary care physician may also remain involved. Our interdisciplinary hospice care teams are here to provide pain and symptom management associated with a life-limiting illness, as well as social, emotional, and spiritual support for not only our patient, but also their family and caregivers.



# When to consider hospice care

Eligibility criteria for hospice care may include an overall decline in condition, frequent hospitalizations, progressive weight loss, deteriorating cognitive abilities, and/or recurring infections.

Anyone can make a referral for a hospice care evaluation including the patient, a family member or caregiver, primary care physician or specialist, or any member of a care team. Some diagnoses commonly associated with hospice care include:



Heart Disease



Cancer



COPD/Respiratory Diseases



Alzheimer's/Dementia/  
Neurologic Diseases



Stroke/Coma



Liver/Renal Failure

# Covered care provided at home

Hospice is a special plan of care provided wherever our patient calls home. This could be a private residence or apartment, a skilled nursing facility, or an assisted living community. Hospice care may also be available to hospitalized patients if medically necessary. Hospice care is covered under the Hospice Medicare Benefit, most Medicaid plans, and many private insurance policies.

