



## What is hospice and who is it for?

Hospice is a philosophy of caring for patients whose medical conditions are not responding to treatment or for those patients who choose not to seek aggressive medical care at the end stage of life. It is a program for patients who are considered terminal and are expected to live six months or less if the disease follows its natural course, although many patients outlive this time frame. The hospice philosophy focuses on comfort care not curative care. The goal of hospice care is for the patient to remain as comfortable and pain-free as possible in their own home or the home of a loved one through the end of life. Hospice care can also be provided in a long-term care facility or an assisted living facility.



## Grace Hospice Locations

MICHIGAN	OHIO
<b>BAY CITY</b> p. 989.686.9866 f. 989.686.9867	<b>AKRON</b> p. 330.899.0180 f. 855.824.8602
<b>FLINT</b> Toll Free: 877.230.0027 p. 810.230.0127 f. 810.230.7048	<b>CINCINNATI</b> p. 513.458.5545 f. 513.458.5549
<b>LANSING</b> Toll Free: 877.306.5588 p. 517.381.4866 f. 517.381.4867	<b>CLEVELAND EAST</b> p. 440.942.8490 f. 440.942.8471
<b>MADISON HEIGHTS</b> Toll Free: 888.937.4390 p. 248.837.4390 f. 248.591.0152	<b>CLEVELAND WEST</b> Toll Free: 877.GRACE21 p. 440.826.0350 f. 440.826.0351
<hr/>	
SOUTH TEXAS	
<b>AUSTIN</b> Toll Free: 877.300.2143 p. 512.300.2100 f. 512.300.2101	<b>DAYTON</b> p. 937.293.1381 f. 937.293.1382
<b>SAN ANTONIO</b> Toll Free: 877.525.1421 p. 210.525.1400 f. 210.525.1401	<b>YOUNGSTOWN</b> p. 330.729.2924 f. 330.729.2926

*Grace Hospice does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in the admission, treatment or participation of its programs, services, activities or in employment.*

© 2011. U.S. Medical Management, LLC. All rights reserved.



# Hospice Information For Patients

PEACE  
 QUALITY  
 COMFORT  
 CARE  
 CHOICE





## How much does it cost?

If you are over 65 years old and have Medicare, the Medicare Hospice Benefit covers virtually all aspects of hospice care. If you are younger than 65 years old, most private health insurance plans cover hospice services. In many cases, Medicaid also covers hospice services.



## What do hospice volunteers do?

Hospice provides trained volunteers to help the family and patients because round-the-clock hands-on care can be overwhelming at times. Most hospice volunteers are trained to relieve the primary caregivers by helping with the household chores, sitting with patients, or running errands for them.

Perhaps the most important task, however, is their ability to be “good listeners.” Hospice volunteers also provide administrative assistance to the hospice care team by working in the office.



## If a patient signs up with hospice, will they die sooner?

No, the hospice team will not hasten the death of any patient nor will they postpone it. They will aggressively treat the symptoms of the illness and will work together to make the end of life process as peaceful and comfortable for the patient as possible.



## What does hospice do for patients and families?

Hospice care is not just for the patient. It also provides emotional support for the entire family. The care includes a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, counselors, hospice aides, chaplains, and trained volunteers. They work together focusing on the patient’s needs, whether physical, psychological, or spiritual. Below is a list of services available to Medicare hospice recipients.

- Physician services for the medical direction of the patient’s care
- Regular home visits by registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses, hospice aides, and homemakers
- Social work and chaplain visits to assist with final arrangements and bereavement care afterwards
- Medical equipment such as hospital beds and oxygen
- Medical supplies such as bandages and catheters
- Medications delivered to the home for symptom control and pain relief
- Volunteer support to assist patients and loved ones
- Physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and dietary counseling as needed



## If the patient lives longer than 6 months, will he or she still qualify for hospice?

Yes, if the patient’s physician and hospice medical director certify that the condition is still terminal and the patient’s condition is declining he or she will continue to receive hospice services.



## Does a patient have to have a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order to sign up with hospice?

No, a patient does not have to have or agree to have a DNR order to qualify for hospice care. During the admission process, the nurse will give the patient and family information about Do Not Resuscitate orders and other Advanced Directives.



## How does a patient sign up for hospice?

A patient or family member can call the hospice office directly for more information. Admission to hospice requires a doctor’s order and an evaluation by a registered nurse. The evaluation can take place at the patient’s home, hospital, nursing home, or assisted living facility. All services and treatments would be coordinated with the patient’s own physician and the hospice medical director.