



HOSPICE PARTNERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

When is hospice care right for you and your family?

The best time to learn about hospice is before a life-limiting illness occurs. Should the time come when hospice services may be needed, prior knowledge may reduce the stress of the decision-making process. Additionally, the earlier hospice is involved, the more we can do to make the patient's final days, weeks and months as comfortable and satisfying as possible. Hospice enrolls patients when:

- There is a terminal illness with a prognosis of 6 months or less.
- Further aggressive measures to prolong life are no longer beneficial or desired.
- There is a desire to remain at home or at an alternate care facility with established comfort care goals.
- There is a capable and willing primary caregiver available.

Is Hospice care just for people with cancer?

Any person with a life-limiting illness or condition can be a hospice patient. Illnesses may include end-stage heart, lung, liver and kidney disease; Parkinson's disease; end-stage Alzheimer's disease; stroke and coma; other end-stage neurological diseases; and AIDS. Hospice can also care for patients who have a number of problems which, when considered together, create a fragile, life-limiting condition.

Hospice Services Include:

- Pain management and symptom control, including necessary medications
- Home medical equipment
- A team approach to planning and providing care, drawing on all members' specific expertise
- Collaboration between the patient's own physician and the hospice Medical Director
- Registered Nurses who monitor and assess the patient's condition, help with pain control and other symptoms, and provide the patient and family/caregivers with education on all aspects of the patient's illness and care needs
- Availability of a hospice registered nurse 24 hours a day for questions and emergencies
- Social Workers who assist the patient and family in dealing with the emotional and practical aspects of end-of-life needs
- Spiritual Counselors who provide spiritual and/or pastoral support to the patient and family consistent with their belief system
- Volunteers who provide emotional support, help with home care tasks and offer brief periods of relief for the caregiver
- Home Health Aides who may provide personal care and help with bathing and dressing
- Bereavement Counselors who support the family during the patient's illness and for at least thirteen months after the patient has died, focusing on grief and loss issues
- Registered Dietitians, Physical Therapists, and Speech Language Pathologists, as needed.



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Who pays for Hospice?

Medicare, Medi-Cal and most private insurance plans provide benefits for Hospice services, once certain medical and eligibility requirements are met. Hospice Partners' staff will work with your insurance company to coordinate coverage.

Because of the ongoing generosity of our community, admission to Hospice is based on need rather than ability to pay. In cases where individuals are uninsured or underinsured, community contributions allow Hospice Partners to offer financial assistance based on need.

For more information about our services, please contact us at:

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Hospice is about Quality of Life

Most people are surprised and relieved to learn that hospice is far more about living than dying. In fact, the goal of hospice care is to maximize support so patients can live as fully as possible for whatever time remains. Hospice offers comfort care rather than curative treatment. Hospice provides what terminally ill patients need most: freedom from pain; emotional and spiritual support; and the ability to control the direction of their own care. Hospice is a philosophy of care that accepts dying as a natural part of life. We believe that the final stages of life are an opportunity for growth. It can be a time to:

- Heal relationships and reconnect with family and friends.
- Resolve unfinished business concerning one's life.
- Clarify one's values and beliefs.
- Find spiritual peace and say good-byes

Hospice Partners of Southern California does not deny service to anyone on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or age.

*Hospice Partners of Southern California is a Not-For-Profit Tax Exempt Organization
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