

Common Questions About Hospice

What is Hospice?

Hospice is a special type of care which helps patients and families deal with a terminal illness. Even though no cure is possible, hospice helps patients to be comfortable and fulfilled during this stage in their life.

When to Consider Hospice:

- When medical care and treatments are difficult and painful or require repeat hospitalization, but provide no real curative value.
- When patients want to spend their remaining time at home (or wherever they live) in the comfort of family and friends.

How Does Hospice Care Work?

At Hospice of VVRMC, our hospice team includes a physician medical director, nurses, certified home health aide, social worker, chaplain and specially trained volunteers, all of whom are focused on the person - not the illness. They manage the patient's pain and ensure their comfort - both physically and emotionally. Trained volunteers provide companionship and support. Social workers help patients come to terms with their illness and work to fulfill patients' last wishes.

Do Families Receive Support?

Providing emotional and spiritual support for family members is an important part of hospice. Family members are taught to provide much of the daily care for patients, assisted by regular visits from the hospice team. In addition, we help families access needed community resources such as meals, transportation and financial services. Respite Care and General Inpatient Services are available, if needed. Grief counseling and bereavement support are provided a year following the death of a loved one to support and comfort family members.

Who is Eligible for Hospice Care?

A patient is eligible when a physician indicates a patient has a life expectancy of 6 months or less and curative treatment is no longer desired. Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance plans cover hospice care.

Can a Patient Change Their Mind about Hospice?

Yes. Individuals may go on and off hospice as needed, based on their condition. They can voluntarily top hospice care at any time. Hospice of VVRMC works with the family and their doctor to ensure the patient's and family's wishes are being met.

How do You Start Hospice Care?

While physician approval is required to be admitted to hospice care, family, friends and health care providers can begin the conversation with a hospice provider.

Anyone can make a referral to Hospice.

(830) 774-4580