

CHOOSE PALLIATIVE OR HOSPICE CARE

WHICH ONE?

Palliative Care provides support and comfort for anyone undergoing treatment for a serious disease.

Hospice Care, while palliative in nature, is for anyone who has about 6 months more to live, certified by 2 doctors.

WHAT YOU WANT

- Only Licensed Registered Nurses (RNs) administering medications.
- A licensed doctor (MD) overseeing all medication administration and decisions.
- A choice: some long-term care facilities have “captive” or “in-house” hospice providers. You don’t have to use them. You may hire your own.
- A provider that’s geared to supporting the family’s caregiver needs and tasks, as well. Sensitivity to “time-out” to restore, refresh, take care of other responsibilities.

QUESTIONS FOR EVERY PALLIATIVE OR HOSPICE CARE PROVIDER YOU’RE CONSIDERING:

- Do you provide palliative or hospice care, or both?
 - In home?
 - In hospital?
 - In a hospice house?
- What are your pain management policies and procedures?
- Who oversees the medical care? (Degrees? Licenses? Certifications?)
- Who administers pain management and other medications? (Their licenses?)
- Do you have experience with my (loved one’s) disease/disorder?
- Do you provide consistent hospice nurses and caregivers, or will my (loved one) have different providers caring for him/her?
- Do you offer help with daily living activities? Which ones?
- What is your on-call program in case assistance is needed during the night?
- Do you coordinate with family for psychological or emotional support my loved one may need?
- Do you coordinate religious/spiritual support that may be needed?
- Do you offer help completing medical care documents, such as Advanced Directives, Medical Power of Attorney?
- What other services do you offer?
- How are your services billed? What will our costs be? When due? What does insurance cover? Ask about any potential additional costs that may come up.
- Are there financial assistance programs available?
- What patient/family education resources do you offer?



HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCE: [FiveWishes.org](https://www.fivewishes.org)