



Hospice —

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND WHO TO CALL

How Does Hospice Work?

- Hospice care is for any person who has a life-threatening or terminal illness. Most reimbursement sources require a prognosis of six months or less if the illness runs its normal course. Patients with both cancer and non-cancer illnesses are eligible to receive hospice care. All hospices consider the patient and family together as the unit of care.
- The majority of hospice patients are cared for in their own homes or the homes of a loved one. “Home” may also be broadly construed to include services provided in nursing homes, hospitals and prisons.
- Typically, a family member serves as the primary caregiver and, when appropriate, helps make decisions for the terminally ill individual. Members of the hospice staff make regular visits to assess the patient and provide additional care or other services. Hospice staff is on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Who is the Hospice Team?

- Hospice care is a family-centered approach that includes, at a minimum, a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, counselors, and trained volunteers. They work together focusing on the dying patient’s needs; physical, psychological, or spiritual. The goal is to help keep the patient as pain-free as possible, with loved ones nearby until death. The hospice team develops a care plan that meets each patient’s individual needs for pain management and symptom control.

How is Hospice Paid for?

- Hospice is paid for through the Medicare Hospice Benefit, Medicaid Hospice Benefit, and most private insurers. If a person does not have coverage through Medicare, Medicaid or a private insurance company, hospices will work with the person and their family to ensure needed services can be provided.

Who is Eligible for Medicare Hospice Benefits?

Hospice care is covered under Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance). You are eligible for Medicare hospice benefits when you meet all of the following conditions:

- You are eligible for Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance), and
- Your doctor and the hospice medical director certify that you are terminally ill and probably have less than six months to live, and
- You sign a statement choosing hospice care instead of routine Medicare covered benefits for your terminal illness,¹ and
- You receive care from a Medicare-approved hospice program.

Please note: Medicare will still pay for covered benefits for any health problems that aren’t related to your terminal illness.

What Does Medicare Cover?

Medicare covers these hospice services and pays nearly all of their costs:

- Doctor services
- Nursing care
- Medical equipment (like wheelchairs or walkers)
- Medical supplies (like bandages and catheters)
- Drugs for symptom control and pain relief
- Short-term care in the hospital, including respite and inpatient for pain and symptom management
- Home health aide and homemaker services
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Social work services
- Dietary counseling
- Grief support to help you and your family

Please note: You will only have to pay part of the cost for outpatient drugs and inpatient respite care.

Respite Care and Medicare?

Respite care is care given to a hospice patient by another caregiver so that the usual caregiver can rest. As a hospice patient, you may have one person who takes care of you every day, like a family member. Sometimes your caregiver needs someone to take care of you for a short time while they do other things that need to be done. During a period of respite care, you will be cared for in a Medicare-approved facility, such as a hospice residential facility, hospital, or nursing home.

The Medicare Hospice Benefit Does Not Cover the Following:

Treatment intended to cure your terminal illness –

As a hospice patient, you will receive comfort care to help manage symptoms related to your illness. Comfort care includes medications for symptom control and pain relief, physical care, counseling, and other hospice services. Medications not directly related to your hospice diagnosis are not covered under the Medicare Hospice Benefit. Hospice team members will consult with the hospice physician and will inform

Continued on the next page

¹Resource: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850. Publication No. CMS 02154. Revised July 2003

Hospice CONTINUED

you and your family which drugs and/or medications are covered and which ones are not covered under the Medicare Hospice Benefit. The Hospice uses medicine, equipment, and supplies to make you as comfortable and pain-free as possible. Under the hospice benefit, Medicare won't pay for treatment to cure your illness. You should talk with your doctor if you are thinking about potential treatment to cure your illness. As a hospice patient, you always have the right to stop getting hospice care and receive the "traditional" Medicare coverage you had before electing hospice.

Care from another provider that is the same care that you are getting from your hospice –

All care that you receive for your illness must be given by your hospice team. You can't get the same type of care from a different provider unless you change your hospice provider.

Nursing Home Room and Board –

Room and board aren't covered by Medicare. You may receive hospice services wherever you live, even in a nursing home, however, the Medicare Hospice Benefit does not pay for nursing home room and board.

How Do I Begin Receiving Hospice?

Anyone can inquire about hospice services. You or your loved one may call a local hospice and request services. The hospice staff will then contact your physician to determine if a referral to hospice is appropriate. Another way to inquire about hospice is to talk with your physician, and he or she can make a referral to hospice.

Hospice can begin as soon as a 'referral' is made by the person's doctor.

Questions to Ask When Choosing a Hospice Program

Hospice care is a philosophy of care that accepts dying as a natural part of life. When death is inevitable, hospice seeks neither to hasten nor postpone it. Below is a list of questions you should consider when looking for a hospice program.

- What services are provided?
- What kind of support is available to the family/caregiver?
- What roles do the attending physician and hospice play?
- What does the hospice volunteer do?
- How does hospice work to keep the patient comfortable?
- How are services provided after hours?
- How and where does hospice provide short-term inpatient care?
- Can hospice be brought into a nursing home or long-term care facility?

For information and referral, or to locate a Medicare-approved hospice in your area, call:

Hospice Link: 1-800-331-1620

National Hospice and Palliative Care Helpline: 1-800-658-8898 or www.nhpco.org

Medicare Helpline: 1-800-633-4227 • 1-877-486-2048 TTY

Texas and New Mexico Hospice Organization: 1-800-580-9270

Caring Connections – a great website explaining Hospice: www.caringinfo.org

See local Hospice organizations listed in this publication.

Hospice Agencies

Greater Houston Area

Below are area Hospice Agencies licensed by the State of Texas and listed by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. ▲ = Medicaid ■ = Medicare Listings in **RED** have ads in this edition

ANGLETON

IPH Hospice Care
135 E Hospital Dr
(979) 848-8151 ■

BAYTOWN

Faith Community Hospice
4721 Garth Rd Ste H
(281) 422-0414 ■

Odyssey Center for Hospice Care
1600 James Bowie Dr
(281) 422-8879 ■

Regency Hospice
1610 James Bowie
(281) 837-9200 ■

BEAUMONT

Harbor Hospice of Beaumont
4010 Vollege St Ste 100
(409) 840-5640 N/A

Hospice of Texas
3843 Stagg Dr
(409) 832-4582 ■

Odyssey Healthcare of Beaumont
550 Fannin St Ste 1230
(409) 212-0020 ■

Professional Health Care
2533 Calder
(409) 212-0205 ■

Southern Care
3965 Phelan Blvd Ste 108
(409) 833-8001 ■

BELLAIRE

Houston Solari Hospice Care
6800 W Loop South Ste 250
(713) 664-7120 NP

CLEARLAKE

Vitas Healthcare of Texas
18333 Egret Bay Blvd Ste 550
(281) 335-3401 ■

CONROE

Aseracare Hospice
19221 1-45 S Ste 190
(281) 298-0961 ■

Lighthouse Hospice of Conroe
200 Riverpointe Dr Ste 300
(888) 290-7727 ■

Odyssey Healthcare of Conroe
1001-45 N Ste 240
(936) 788-7707 ■

Odyssey Healthcare of Conroe
233 I 45 N
(936) 539-1400 ■

FRIENDSWOOD

Vitas Healthcare
211 E Parkwood Ste 108
(713) 663-7777 ■▲

HOUSTON

Amed Community Hospice
3535 Briarpark Dr
(800) 377-7260 NP

American Hospice
11200 Richmond Ave Ste 110
(281) 496-5666 ■

Aseracare Hospice
1235 N Loop Ste 215
(713) 864-2626 ■

Asperion Hospice of Houston
1770 St James Pl Ste 330
(713) 850-8853 N/A

CHRISTUS St Joseph Hospice
1404 St Joseph Pkwy
(713) 655-7284 ■

Christus VNA Hospice & Palliative Care
601 Sawyer Ste 750
(713) 630-5555 ■

Compassionate Care Hospice of Houston
2020 N Loop W Ste 140
(713) 667-3247 ■

East Harris County Hospice Services LLC
1313 Holland Ave Ste 2
(713) 450-4500 ■

Heartland Home Health Care & Hospice
1434 W Sam Houston Pkwy N Ste 140
(713) 932-1354 NP

Hospice & Palliative Care of Texas
7211 Regency Sq Blvd
(713) 785-4800 N/A

Hospice Alpha
3505 Sage Rd Ste 160
(713) 899-6083 NP

Hospice Preferred Choice
1235 N Loop W 215
(713) 864-2626 ■

Houston Hospice
5206 FM 1960 W Ste 104
(281) 587-2218 NP

Houston Hospice
1905 Holcombe Blvd
(713) 467-7423 NP

Houston Hospice & Palliative Care
8811 Gaylord Ste 100
(713) 468-2441 ■

Inter Active Hospice Services
10530 Rockley Rd Ste 100A
(281) 892-2000 ■

Joshuas Place Hospice
2656 SLoop W Ste 233
(832) 778-1655 ■

Life's Solutions Hospice Care
8989 Westheimer Ste 330
(713) 821-3000 ■

North American Hospice
2217 Blodgett Ste 404
(713) 780-2006 ■

Oasis Hospice Services
6437 Bellaire Blvd
(713) 774-5433 N/A

Odyssey Healthcare of Houston
2636 S. Loop W Ste 210
(713) 592-5600 ■

Peaceful Tranquility Hospice
2616 S. Loop W 615
(713) 668-9595 N/A

Silverado Hospice
13810 Champions Forest
(888) 328-6640 N/A ■▲

Vistacare
8203 Willow Place S Ste 160
(281) 890-0255 ■

Vistacare
9800 Northwest Frwy Ste 220
(713) 263-1818 ■

VistaCare Family Hospice
701 N Post Oak Rd Ste 151
(713) 290-1746 ■▲

Vitas Healthcare of Texas
303 Lantern Bend Dr Ste 319
(832) 249-6977 NP

Vitas Healthcare of Texas
4828 Loop Central Dr Ste 890
(713) 663-7777 ■

Vitas Healthcare of Texas
3845 FM 1960 Ste 390
(281) 895-6351 NP

Vitas Healthcare of Texas
777 N Post Oak Rd Ste 322
(713) 263-9493 NP

HUMBLE

Northeast Hospice Services
9813 Memorial Blvd
(281) 540-7852 ■

KATY

Katy Hospice
20923 Kingsland Blvd
(281) 599-7575 ■

Katy Hospice
810 S Mason Rd Ste 303
(281) 347-5690 NP

KINGWOOD

Grace Hospice of Texas
2807 King Crossing Or Ste 342
(281) 361-6032 ■

LAKE JACKSON

Helping Hands & Hearts Hospice
412 Plantation Dr
(979) 297-3775 NP ■

Hospice Care Team
107 West Way Ste 29
(979) 297-6043 ■

LEAGUE CITY

Regency Hospice & Durable Medical Equipment
1100 Gulf Frwy Ste 122
(281) 316-7777 ■

ORANGE

Southeast Texas Hospice
912 W Cherry
(409) 886-0622 ■

PASADENA

Amed Community Hospice
4008 Vista
(713) 947-6200 NP

RICHMOND

Lifetime Home Health
10803 W Hidden Lake Ln
(281) 923-3479 N/A

SUGAR LAND

Kristel Healthcare Services
515 Scarlet Maple Dr
(281) 851-4719 N/A

TEXAS CITY

Amed Community Hospice
8901 Emmett F Lowry Expwy Ste B
(409) 935-0169 ■

Hospice Care Team
1708 Amburn Rd Ste C
(800) 545-8738 ■

TOMBALL

Lighthouse Hospice
14011 Park Dr Ste 201
(281) 290-7727 ■