

When to Get Hospice Involved



If someone is experiencing any of the following difficulties, it may be time to consider VNA hospice:

1. Increased signs and symptoms of disease, worsening clinical status.
2. Total dependence in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) which include feeding, toileting, selecting proper attire, grooming, putting on clothes, bathing, walking, and transferring (such as moving from bed to wheelchair), decrease in level of activity.
3. Weight loss, decreased interest in food, and difficulty swallowing.
4. Frequent and recent hospitalizations without any improvement in condition.
5. Frequent or recurrent infections such as urinary tract infection, pneumonia.
6. Metastatic cancer or cancer that no longer responds to treatment.
7. Dementia with declining mental status (Alzheimer's), loss of communication, poor appetite, weight loss, frequent infections.
8. End stage heart disease with symptoms of heart failure or angina at rest.
9. Pulmonary disease with disabling dyspnea at rest, multiple infections.
10. Cerebral Vascular Accident - CVA (stroke) with poor response to therapy, weight loss.
11. End stage renal or liver disease.

WHAT MAKES VNA'S HOSPICE CARE DIFFERENT?

The VNA Hospice team helps patients and families live fully each day by focusing on maximizing comfort and quality of life through a holistic approach that addresses the emotional, social, and spiritual needs.



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VNA HOSPICE CARE



Helping patients and families live fully each day.





What is Hospice?

- Hospice is a special concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families as the patient approaches end of life.
- Patients are allowed and encouraged to continue to use their own physician.
- The goal of hospice is to maximize the life that is still ahead, not giving up hope.
- Hospice provides the luxury of planning the rest of life according to one's own wishes.
- Hospice is choosing comfort and quality of life through pain management and symptom control.
- Patients are entitled to Hospice care and it is covered under Medicare, Medicaid, VA benefits, and most health plans. The hospice benefit covers prescribed medications, medical equipment and supplies related to the hospice diagnosis, visits by medical and nursing professionals, aides, and bereavement support for the family.
- Families surveyed say "we wished we would have enrolled sooner."

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VNA Hospice Services Include:

Physician Care
Registered Nurse Care
Social Worker Visits & Counseling
Physical & Speech Therapy
Spiritual Care & Counseling
Nurse's Aide Personal Care
Volunteer Visits & Assistance
Support Pets
Pain & Symptom Management
Medical Supplies & Equipment
Medications
Bereavement Services
Home & Nursing Home Visits
Inpatient Hospital Care
Respite Care
Caregiver Education & Counseling
Advanced Directive Planning
Nurse Advice Available 24-hours/7 days a week

Call a VNA nurse to answer questions about how to get hospice involved at **314.918.7171**.

VNA's Interdisciplinary Team Can Improve the Quality of Life

- **Hospice Medical Director** – Directs the plan of care with patient's physician and hospice team.
- **Hospice Nurse** – Performs an assessment of symptoms and provides pain management and symptom relief. Reviews patient's surroundings for safety. Provides education to patient, caregiver, and family on patient's condition/illness/disease.
- **Nursing Assistant** – Assists patients with the activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and eating.
- **Social Worker** – Assists patient and the caregiver with the emotional, social, spiritual needs. Assists in navigating the health care benefits and end-of-life planning. Provides informational resources based on patient's needs such as financial needs and community resources.
- **Spiritual Counselor** – Provides spiritual support to patient, caregiver and family which reflects your own spiritual beliefs or non-religious rituals.
- **Volunteers** – Visits with patient; provides respite care for caregiver/family.