



## Hospice or Palliative Care?

What is the difference and which one is best for you or your loved one?



Hospice and palliative care have similarities and are often confused with one another. Understanding the differences can help you choose the best option for care.

# Hospice Care

## Definition

Program of care and support for individuals when a cure is no longer likely or the patient has chosen not to pursue aggressive curative treatment. The focus is on the patient's quality of life. Hospice cares for the patient, as well as assists their caregivers.

## Services Provided

- Physician services
- Nursing care
- Medical equipment/supplies
- Social worker services
- Dietary counseling
- Spiritual counseling
- Bereavement services
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Volunteers
- Pharmacist services
- Speech language pathology
- Nurse aide & homemaker services
- Medications related to diagnosis

## Payer Source

Medicare pays for 100% of your hospice care, including medications and equipment related to your admission diagnosis, under the following conditions:

- Patient is eligible for the Medicare Part A Hospice Benefit
- Patient's doctor and hospice agency's Medical Director determine if the patient is eligible
- Patient or patient representative chooses to elect the Medicare Hospice Benefit

## Frequency of Visits

As often as needed. The frequency of visits is based on the patient's individual care plan and will increase or decrease based on the patient's needs.

## Service Location

Home, hospital, assisted or independent living facility, skilled nursing facility

## Eligibility

- Patient has exhausted all methods in the curative process.
- The hospice nurse meets with the patient and provides a clinical assessment.
- Patient's doctor and hospice agency's Medical Director determine their eligibility based on a prognosis of six months or less if the patient's disease runs its normal course.
- Patient or their personal representative elect the Medicare Hospice Benefit.

# Palliative Care

Medical specialty focused on the needs of people who are living with serious, often life-threatening illness

Physician, nurse practitioner or social worker focused on treating uncontrollable symptoms

Insurance will be billed for the provider's services. Medicare Part B will pay for 80% of charges; the remainder is either billed to a secondary insurance or to the patient.

Physician or nurse practitioner visit is typically based on a 3-5 week schedule. The frequency of visits is based on the patient's individual care plan and will increase or decrease based on the patient's needs.

Home, hospital, assisted or independent living facility, skilled nursing facility

- Eligibility is symptom driven, such as shortness of breath related to COPD or pain related to cancer.
- Services provided at any stage of the illness regardless of current treatment plan
- Physician order

# “I wish I had known about hospice sooner.”

One of the most common statements made by families who chose hospice for their loved ones.



**Elara Caring**   
Hospice Care

**Do you have questions?**

Ask your doctor about Elara Caring  
or contact us at [elara.com/locations](https://elara.com/locations).