



**Hospice and
Palliative Care**

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Transforming the Aging Experience

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What is Hospice?

Hospice is end-of-life care focusing on the quality of life and comfort of the patient. For those patients with a diagnosed illness and a limited expected time left, hospice provides comfort and support to the individual and their families. A patient is switched to hospice care when they decided to stop treatment for an illness and they are expected to have less than six months to live. Hospice Care is provided by an interdisciplinary team comprised of a doctor, nurse, social worker, volunteer and chaplain. Hospice also provides care and comfort for the family and family caregivers of the individual. Typically all hospice care is covered by Medicare and supplemented by the hospice company (NIA, 2021).

What does Hospice cover?

- Switches only to pain relief and symptom management
- Medical, nursing, and social services
- Prescriptions for pain management
- Durable medical equipment for pain relief and symptom management
- Aide services
- Spiritual and grief services for you and your family
- Respite Care (for the family caregivers)

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is specialized care that aims for the comfort of individuals living with a serious chronic illness. Palliative care patients still receive medical care for their illness, as well as additional aid with reducing symptoms and guidance with courses of treatment related to their illness. A palliative care team is an interdisciplinary team comprised of all doctors of the patient, nurse, social worker, nutritionist and chaplain. Palliative care can take place wherever an individual resides: home, apartment, assisted living, hospital or skilled nursing community (NIA, 2021).

What does Palliative Care cover?

- Pain and symptom management of a chronic illness
- Care coordination with your existing care team
- Development of a care plan
- Assistance with medical decisions
- Assistance with Advanced Planning
- Spiritual Care



What Is the Difference Between Hospice and Palliative Care?

QUESTION	HOSPICE	PALLIATIVE CARE
<i>Who is eligible?</i>	Those with a chronic illness in which they expect to have six months or less to live	Those at any stage of an illness
<i>How will I be cared for?</i>	Symptom management of the chronic illness to improve quality of life	Symptom management is the goal of palliative care, can be combined with therapeutic care
<i>Can I continue treatments?</i>	No, curative treatments are discontinued on hospice. Treatment of conditions not related to the primary illness can be continued	Yes, You can continue treatment and receive palliative care for symptom management
<i>Does Medicare pay?</i>	Yes, when recommended by a physician	Yes, it covers the medical portions (clinicians)
<i>Does Supplemental Insurance pay?</i>	May cover additional services	Yes, Medi-Cal (Medicaid) and private insurers may cover medical portions (check with your insurer)
<i>How long does care last?</i>	As long as a physician believes a patient has six months or less to live	Can be as long as the patient needs
<i>Where can I receive care?</i>	Anywhere a patient calls home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital • Skilled nursing • A patient's home • Residential care • Specialized clinic 	Anywhere a patient calls home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital • Skilled nursing • A patient's home • Residential care • Specialized clinic



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