

You might be surprised to know that hospice is not a place...it is a philosophy of caring for chronically or terminally ill patients, and providing guidance and support to their families and loved ones.

Rather than "curative care," where the focus is on curing a person facing a life limiting illness, hospice offers "palliative care," where the patient, family or loved ones have decided that "quality" of life is the primary focus. Palliative care concentrates on managing pain and controlling symptoms for the patient. Emotional and spiritual guidance is also provided. Hospice care or comfort care is offered to patients in their homes, in assisted living facilities or nursing homes...wherever the patient resides.

The Three Steps to Receiving Hospice Services

1. Are You Ready for Hospice Care?

Sometimes it's difficult to admit or decide that it's time to make a choice in the type of care a loved one should have. Approaching these end-of-life decisions is not simple or easy. Hospice is there to help you and your family through this process, starting with a very simple question:

Are you or is your loved one ready for hospice? Consider the following to help in the decision-making process:

Have you or has your loved one...

1. Have you or has your loved one been told by a doctor that life expectancy is limited?
2. Do you or your loved one desire the highest quality of life possible for whatever time remains?
3. Do you or your loved one want to spend the remaining time at home or in a comfortable environment?

If your answer is yes to these simple but critical questions, then you or your loved one should begin to consider the benefits that high-quality hospice and palliative care can provide. Hospice can help manage the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the patient and assist with the needs of the family as they support their loved one through a terminal illness.

2. Selecting a Hospice

Providing hospice services can vary as much as hospitals, physicians, and other professional services. From hospice to hospice there are varying levels of expertise...different approaches to supporting patients and families...alternative philosophies of care. The choices can be bewildering for patients and families who are trying to find the hospice that is right for them.

Here are some issues every family or caregiver should consider as they learn more about hospice, and how to acquire the kind of service and support their loved one deserves.

1. How do I obtain hospice services? How do I qualify?
2. What kinds of services can I expect?
3. Where are services provided?
4. Can our personal physician continue to be involved in care management?
5. What role will the family play in providing care? What if there is no family?
6. What happens if the patient needs to go to the hospital? Or needs additional treatment or medications?
7. How much control and choice do the patient and family have over care management?
8. What kind of support will be available to the family and other loved ones?
9. What kinds of services are available after-hours? How are they managed?
10. Can the patient continue to receive other medical care and services?

3. Contact Us

Contact us at any time for answers to your questions. We strive for admissions at a patient's residence within one hour after contact, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are here to help. Evaluations are free by one of our physicians or nursing admissions team members. Once qualified, admissions can occur on the same day. For further information, please visit us at www.valorhospicecare.com.