

QUESTIONS EVERY FAMILY SHOULD ASK ABOUT HOSPICE

Hospice care is about more than medical support—it's about helping patients and families navigate a difficult time with comfort, dignity, and confidence. Use these questions when speaking with a hospice provider, physician, hospital discharge planner, social worker, or insurance representative.

WHAT WILL HOSPICE COST?

Key Questions:

- ✓ Is hospice covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or my insurance?
- ✓ Will there be any out-of-pocket expenses?
- ✓ Are medications related to the hospice diagnosis covered?
- ✓ Is medical equipment included?

Did You Know? Most hospice patients receive coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance.

WHERE CAN HOSPICE CARE BE PROVIDED?

Key Questions

- ✓ What hospice care settings are available in our community?
- ✓ Which care setting is most appropriate for my loved one's needs?
- ✓ Can hospice services continue if my loved one relocates?
- ✓ What happens if our caregiving situation changes?

Did You Know? Hospice is a service, not a place. Care can often be provided in a private residence, assisted living community, skilled nursing facility, or hospice home.

WHAT SERVICES ARE INCLUDED?

Key Questions:

- ✓ How is care provided and what does it look like?
- ✓ How often will nurses visit?
- ✓ Is emotional and spiritual support offered?
- ✓ What services are available to support the entire family?

Did You Know? Hospice care includes more than medical care—it also includes social work, spiritual care, volunteer support, and grief services.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE NEED HELP?

Key Questions:

- ✓ Is support available 24/7?
- ✓ Who do we call after hours?
- ✓ What happens during a medical crisis?
- ✓ How quickly can someone respond?

Did You Know? Many questions or symptom concerns can be addressed by your hospice team without a trip to the emergency room.

QUESTIONS EVERY FAMILY SHOULD ASK ABOUT HOSPICE (cont.)

HOW ARE CAREGIVERS SUPPORTED?

Key Questions

- ✓ Will we receive caregiver education?
- ✓ Is respite care available?
- ✓ What resources are available if we're feeling overwhelmed?
- ✓ Is grief support available after a loved one's death?

Caregiver Tip: Don't be afraid to ask about volunteer services—hospice volunteers can provide companionship, respite, and practical support to help ease the demands of caregiving.

IS IT THE RIGHT TIME FOR HOSPICE?

Key Questions:

- ✓ Does my loved one qualify?
- ✓ Who determines eligibility?
- ✓ Can hospice begin before the final days of life?
- ✓ What happens if their condition changes?

MYTH: Hospice is only for the last few days of life.

FACT: Many patients benefit from hospice care for months, receiving additional support and symptom management.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE CONVERSATION

Make Sure You Know:

- Who to call with questions
- What services are covered
- What hospice care settings are available in your area
- What support is available for caregivers
- How to access care after hours
- Next steps for enrollment

NEED HELP NAVIGATING HOSPICE?

No question is too small, and our team is here to help.

Whether you're just beginning to explore hospice care or are ready to speak with a hospice provider, these questions can help you better understand your options and make informed decisions.

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Looking for More Answers?

Our Care Collective blog features articles, guides, and resources designed to help patients, caregivers, and families navigate serious illness, hospice care, grief, and caregiving with confidence.

Explore our latest resources at:

CareFirstNY.org/The-Care-Collective-Blog



