

Suggested Questions to Ask Hospice Agencies

What Is Hospice Care?

- Can you describe what hospice care is?
- What services are provided?
- What are the levels of care for hospice and how are they determined?
- How soon and how often do we see the hospice physician?
- Does the physician see me at home?
- What is the criteria for 24/7 care at home and/or inpatient level of care?
- How often will the nurse/home health aide be visiting? How much time will the nurse/home health aide spend in the home?
- What medical equipment will be provided? Are diapers, chux, supplements (such as Ensure®) included?
- What hospice support services (social work, chaplain, music therapy, volunteers) do I have access to?
- Are there any religious services available that will meet my needs?
- Are there any support services for family members?

Hospice Coverage

- What is covered under hospice services?
- Will I have any financial responsibilities?
- Will imaging be covered, blood draws, etc.?

Questions about My Hospice Care

- What number do I call if I am having a crisis and should I go to the nearest emergency room?
- Where is the closest hospice unit if a higher level of care is needed?
- Do I need to sign a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) form?
- Can I continue seeing my oncologist, primary care physician, and /or other physicians?
- What medications will continue to be provided and which will be discontinued? How do we access these medications?
- Will services such as hydration, IV antibiotics, dialysis, blood/platelet transfusions, paracentesis, chest tube care continue to be provided/covered? Will the services be provided at home or an inpatient unit?
- Are there any treatments that I will not be able to continue?
- Is palliative radiation allowed, if so under what circumstances?
- Can I disenroll out of hospice for any of the following reasons, uncomfortable with facility, staff, care, to resume cancer treatment, etc.?
- Can I transfer to another facility or hospice agency, if so, what is the process?

Other General Questions

- Do you provide any assistance in creating a will or testament, updating beneficiaries for my life insurance, creating a trust account, or assigning a custodian for my children's trust account?
- Do you have assistance in securing my estate?
- How do I know I am selecting the best hospice agency?
- What is the difference between your agency and others?

References

<https://www.nhpco.org/patients-and-caregivers/>

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-are-palliative-care-and-hospice-care>

<https://www.cancer.org/treatment/end-of-life-care/hospice-care.html>



IN PURSUIT OF YOUR CURE.™