

# What Is Hospice Care?

Hospice provides comfort and compassion when they are needed most. Hospice care enables a person to retain his or her dignity and maintain quality of life during the end of life. Hospice care encompasses the support given to the patient and the family during the illness and through their bereavement.

## Hospice Cares Compassionately for Terminally Ill People by:

- Addressing the patient's physical, psychological, and spiritual needs.
- Helping family members during and after the dying process.
- Providing comprehensive palliative care when there is no cure, with an emphasis on pain and symptom control.
- Enabling a person to live the last weeks and months of life as fully and comfortably as possible, with dignity, at home or in a home-like setting. Today, ninety-five percent of hospice days of care are provided at the patient's residence.
- Accepting death as a natural part of life, seeking neither to hasten nor prolong the dying process.

## The Hospice Care Team

Hospice care is provided on an as-needed basis – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Members of the interdisciplinary team include:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Home health aides
- Social workers
- Chaplains or clergy
- Bereavement counselors
- Specially trained volunteers
- Other health care professionals as needed

## Services Provided by Hospice

- Physician services for the medical direction of the patient's care.
- Regular home visits by registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.
- Home health aides and homemakers for services such as dressing and bathing.
- Social work and counseling.
- Medical equipment such as hospital beds.
- Medical supplies such as bandages and catheters.
- Drugs for symptom control and pain relief.
- Volunteer support to assist patients and loved ones.
- Physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and dietary counseling.



**IOWA HOSPICE**  
ORGANIZATION

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