

What is Hospice?

HOSPICE IS A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF MEDICAL CARE AND SUPPORT for people nearing the end of life. The Hospice philosophy is based on several ideas:

- » No one should die alone or in pain.
- » Life-limiting illnesses can cause emotional and spiritual distress as well as physical pain, all of which deserve quality professional attention and compassionate care.
- » A serious illness affects the entire family, not just the person who is ill. Those affected need and deserve ongoing support before and after a loved one's death.

Hospice provides pain management and appropriate palliative care, care that focuses on the patient's comfort, when curative medical treatments no longer enhance quality of life. Hospice strives to meet the patient's physical, emotional and spiritual needs and provides support for the entire family during the illness and for at least one year after a patient's death.

Most Hospice Care is provided at home, where people most want to be when they are ill. Hospice Care can also be provided in a nursing or residential facility and in certain circumstances, in a hospital or hospice management residence. Hospice also provides medications, medical equipment and supplies necessary to promote comfort at home or in other Hospice settings. Hospice does not mean giving up hope. The focus shifts toward helping the patient achieve the maximum quality of life by focusing on their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.



Dr. Ismael Roque-Velasco
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hospice Care of South Florida

Hospice Care vs. Standard Medical Care

Some differences between Hospice Care and Medical care are:

- » Hospice looks at all of the patient's and their family's needs. A coordinated team of hospice professionals, assisted by volunteers, work to meet the patient's and family's emotional and spiritual needs, as well as the patient's physical needs.
- » An emphasis is put on controlling pain and symptoms through the most advanced techniques available as well as on emotional and spiritual support tailored to the needs of the patient and their family.
- » Hospice recognizes that a serious illness affects not only affects the person who is ill, but the entire family as well. The family and patient is the "unit of care" for hospice professionals. At times, other family members may actually need more attention than the patient.

Who pays for Hospice care?

Hospice palliative care is covered 100% by most insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, with no out-of-pocket costs to the patient or family. Costs covered related to the terminal illness, including the services of the Hospice team, medications, medical equipment and supplies. Contact Hospice Care of South Florida to learn more on how they can you and your loved ones in your time of need.

For more information on Hospice of South Florida, please call the 24-hour phone line at 305-591-1606 or visit www.hospicesouthflorida.org.



"A Helping Hand When You Need It the Most"

Hospice Care allows end-of-life patients the opportunity to live pain-free with the following services:

- » **Routine Home Care**
- » **Continuous Care at Home**
- » **General Inpatient Care**
- » **Respite Care**

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(305) 591-1606

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