

# The Truth About Hospice

**ADMITTING A PATIENT TO HOSPICE DOES NOT MEAN GIVING UP HOPE.** Hospice care provides pain and symptom management and appropriate palliative care when curative medical treatments no longer enhance the patient's quality of life. The focus of care shifts toward helping the patient achieve maximum quality of life from a physical, emotional and spiritual perspective.

Hospice programs provide medication to manage symptoms related to the primary illness.

Each patient receives the medical equipment and supplies necessary to enhance overall comfort and safety including, but not limited to, hospital beds, bedside commode, an over bed table, oxygen, and dressing supplies. When finding a Hospice program for you or a family member, it is important to ask about the levels of care that particular Hospice program offers.

## Hospice Care of South Florida, for example, provides four levels of care:

1. Routine Home Care
2. Continuous Care at Home
3. General Inpatient Care
4. Respite Care

*Routine home care* provides patient care availability wherever the patient considers home, including a residence, skilled nursing facility or assisted living community. New generations often opt for the option of staying at home during their final moments or when seriously ill, with their family by their side. "Everybody agrees that they don't want to be in the emergency room and they don't want to come into

the hospital," says Amy Kelley, MD, associate professor in the department of geriatrics and palliative medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. Hospice provides the opportunity for a person to spend their last moments where they feel most comfortable.

*Continuous care* at home means hospice provides medical management at the home 24 hours a day. During times of crisis, when death is impending or the patient has worsened, hospice provides additional services to allow the patient to remain at home. A patient may also be admitted to general inpatient care if there are certain medical needs that cannot be managed at home.

Finally, *respite care* is when a hospice program provides a short-term accommodation of the patient in order to provide temporary relief to caregivers. Oftentimes, the caregiver's own health declines due to stress and lack of time to care for himself. When a family needs a "break" some hospice programs will offer respite care to give them an opportunity to rest. Breaks are necessary for the caregiver to refresh and return to the patient with a stronger and revitalized ability to care for him or her.

In hospice care, the caregiver/hospice aid is in constant communication with the rest of the team to identify physical and emotional changes. The program also teaches families how to meet the physical and emotional needs of the patient, as well as to provide ongoing support and education.

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

available wherever the patient considers home, including a residence, skilled nursing facility or assisted living community.



### Continuous Care at Home

medical management at home 24 hours a day.



### General Inpatient Care

medical needs that cannot be managed at home.



### Respite Care

we provide a short-term accommodation of the patient to provide temporary relief to those who are caring for them.



24 HOUR PHONE LINE **(305) 591-1606**



**Hospice Care**  
OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
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[WWW.HOSPICESOUTHFLORIDA.ORG](http://WWW.HOSPICESOUTHFLORIDA.ORG)