

# Hospice Care



## What is Hospice Care?

Hospice Care is comfort care provided to you and your family if you have terminal condition, with less than 6 months to live, and are no longer seeking treatment other than palliative care.

Hospice Care can be provided at home, in an outpatient clinic or in an inpatient setting.

## Am I eligible for Hospice Care?

Since **Hospice Care** is part of the VHA Standard Medical Benefits Package, all *enrolled* Veterans are eligible **IF they meet the clinical need for the service.**

There are NO COPAYS for Hospice Care whether it is provided by the VA or an organization with a VA contract.

Find out more by visiting the Paying for Long Term Care section at [www.va.gov/Geriatrics](http://www.va.gov/Geriatrics).

## What services can I get?

Hospice Care provides services that relieve suffering and help control symptoms in a way that respects your personal, cultural, and religious beliefs and practices.

Hospice Care also provides bereavement support to your family. You and your family meet with a care team to develop a plan of care together that meets your medical, social, spiritual and psychological needs.

## How do I decide if it is right for me?

You can use a **Shared Decision Making Worksheet** to help you figure out what long term care services or settings may best meet your needs now or in the future.

There's also a **Caregiver Self-Assessment**. It can help your caregiver identify their own needs and decide how much support they can offer to you. Having this information from your caregiver, along with the involvement of your care team and social worker, will help you reach good long term care decisions.

Ask your social worker for these Worksheets or download copies from the **Shared Decision Making** section at [www.va.gov/Geriatrics](http://www.va.gov/Geriatrics).

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Your physician or other primary care provider can answer questions about your medical needs. Some important questions to talk about with your social worker and family include:

- How much assistance do I need for my activities of daily living (e.g., bathing and getting dressed)?
- What are my caregiver's needs?
- How much independence and privacy do I want?
- What sort of social interactions are important to me?
- How much can I afford to pay for care each month?

Talk with your VA social worker about Hospice Care.



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