

Hospice Care for Cancer Patients

VITAS Can Help.



VITAS[®]
Healthcare

When is the right time to ask about hospice?

VITAS offers those whose lives are limited by cancer the opportunity to live more comfortably. Hospice care addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs that may accompany a terminal illness.

While a patient's ultimate goal is to be cancer-free, there may come a time when the malignancy can no longer be controlled or when the response to treatment is far less than hoped for. Patients are considered to be in the end stage of cancer when they have a life expectancy of six months or less. Other factors may be critical in determining the need for hospice:

- When the patient is rapidly weakening and the malignancy is progressing
- When treatment intervention is not fully effective
- When the burden of treatment on the patient and the family outweighs potential benefits

All hospice organizations are reimbursed in the same way, so they do not compete on cost. It is the quality of service and spectrum of choices that differentiate one hospice from another.

Anyone can inquire about hospice services. You, your loved one or your physician may request an evaluation to see if hospice is an appropriate option for care. Call now to see how VITAS can help.

Hospice for end-stage cancer

VITAS has set the standard for palliative treatment of cancer in all its various forms. In addition to managing the physical condition, VITAS also provides emotional comfort and preserves the patient's dignity. Only hospice can implement a plan of care that provides:

- **Pain and symptom control** VITAS specialists in pain and symptom management work to ensure patients are comfortable, free of pain, and are able to enjoy life and remain in control of day-to-day decisions for as long as possible.
- **Care wherever you call home** VITAS offers medical management in the patient's residence, nursing home or assisted living community, or in an inpatient hospice setting when appropriate.
- **Coordination of care** VITAS' interdisciplinary team coordinates and supervises all facets of the patient's plan of care, ensuring that information flows between the physician, nurses, social workers and clergy, and that medications, medical supplies and medical equipment related to the diagnosis are provided.



- **Emotional and spiritual assistance** VITAS understands that those facing the end of life and their families need support to maintain their emotional and spiritual well-being. Individuals differ in their desire for counseling and in their religious beliefs; these essential resources are available to meet your specific needs.
- **Bereavement support** Bereavement is the time of mourning after a loss. The hospice care team works with surviving loved ones to help them through the grieving process. Grief and bereavement resources are available for a year or more following a death.

Levels of hospice care

A pioneer in the field of end-of-life care, VITAS is proud to offer unsurpassed service across all four levels of hospice care.

- **Routine Home Care:** available wherever the patient calls home (residence, nursing home, assisted living community)
- **Intensive Comfort Care®** (Continuous Care): medical management in the home for up to 24 hours per day when medically appropriate
- **Inpatient Care:** when medical needs cannot be managed at home
- **Respite Care:** allows the patient a brief inpatient admission to provide caregivers a “respite”

Who pays for VITAS services?

VITAS accepts Medicare, Medicaid/Medi-Cal, private insurance and other forms of reimbursement for its hospice services.

VITAS Healthcare can help.
Call us at 800.723.3233
or visit VITAS.com

Your VITAS care team

Because patients who have end-stage cancer have a broad range of needs, their care is coordinated by a highly trained interdisciplinary team:

- **Physician** who works with the patient’s primary care physician in controlling pain and symptoms
- **Registered nurse** who is skilled in assessing and managing pain
- **Social worker** who provides emotional support and helps with financial issues and planning
- **Hospice aide** who can help with personal care and hygiene, light housekeeping, light laundry and occasional shopping
- **Chaplain** who works with the patient’s own clergy and offers spiritual support
- **Community volunteer** trained by VITAS to offer time and companionship
- **Bereavement specialist** who offers grief and loss support and helps with memorial services and other care for loved ones



Download Our Free Hospice Discussion Guide



- Make the right decisions for you and your loved ones
- Get answers to your hospice questions
- Learn how to start the hospice conversation

Find out more at HospiceCanHelp.com

For more information call 800.723.3233

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