Palliative Care VS. Hospice Care
A Quick Reference Guide

What do palliative care and hospice have in common?

• Both are comfort care.
• The objective of both is to reduce stress and offer complex symptom relief related to a serious illness.
• Both address physical and psychosocial relief.

Palliative care is for those seeking curative treatment concurrently. Hospice care is for those with a prognosis of six months or less who are not seeking curative treatment or are no longer responding to it.

### Hospice and Palliative Care, Side by Side

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is palliative care?</th>
<th>What is hospice care?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• It can begin at the discretion of the physician at any time, at any stage of illness, serious to end-stage.</td>
<td>• It begins when two physicians certify that the patient has less than six months to live if the disease follows its usual course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It is supportive care with or without curative intent.</td>
<td>• It is comfort care without curative intent; patient is no longer responding to curative treatment or has elected not to further pursue such treatments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• From office visits to prescription charges, it is paid for by insurance and/or self-pay. Check with your health plan for coverage.</td>
<td>• All expenses related to the terminal diagnosis are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It typically takes place in a hospital.</td>
<td>• It is delivered wherever the patient calls home.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VITAS is here for your hospice care needs. Call 800.494.1927.