

Your VITAS team will visit regularly, answer your questions, calm your fears, educate you about what's happening, and adjust your care plan as needed. When crises arise, a VITAS team member will make a house call any time, including nights, weekends and holidays.

VITAS provides all four levels of hospice care, as defined by Medicare. You may receive one level or several, depending on your needs.

- Routine home care, wherever you call home
- Intensive Comfort Care® for temporary, acute symptom management up to 24 hours per day at home, when medically necessary
- Inpatient care when symptoms/pain can no longer be managed at home
- Respite care for the patient in an inpatient facility to give the family caregiver a break

### Who Pays for Hospice?

Medicare Part A covers up to 100% of the cost of hospice care related to a hospice-eligible patient's advanced illness, with no deductible or copayment. For patients with Medicare Advantage, hospice is covered by original Medicare. Patients with a private or employer-provided health plan should check with their insurance provider for details about hospice eligibility, coverage and out-of-pocket expenses. Medicaid provides hospice coverage, but it varies by state.

<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation/The Economist Four-Country Survey of Aging and End-of-Life Medical Care (2017). Conducted March 30–May 29, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Connor, S., Pyenson, B., Fitch, K., Spence, C., Iwasaki, K. (2007). Comparing hospice and non-hospice patient survival among patients who die within a three-year window. *Journal of Pain Symptom Management*, 33(3):238-46.

<sup>3</sup> Data on file at VITAS.

When it's time  
to focus on you, and  
not your illness...

It's Time  
to Call VITAS



When it's time to focus on you, not your illness, it's time for hospice care from VITAS.

Download the VITAS app.  
Go to [VITASapp.com](https://VITASapp.com).



**VITAS**  
Healthcare

For more information call 800.723.3233

[VITAS.com](https://VITAS.com)    

**VITAS**  
Healthcare

Most people with serious illness wish to be comfortable and at home, able to experience the best possible quality of life, do what they like to do, and see family and friends. That's the goal of hospice. Evidence indicates that a timely referral to hospice care can greatly improve quality of life for you, a loved one and your family:

- Seven of 10 Americans say they would prefer to die at home, if given the choice.<sup>1</sup>
- Research finds that Medicare beneficiaries who chose hospice care lived 29 days longer, on average, than patients who did not take advantage of hospice.<sup>2</sup>
- VITAS patient surveys indicate that 99 percent of families wish they had known about hospice sooner.<sup>3</sup>

Experts agree that hospice care is most beneficial when it is provided for months, rather than weeks or days. Get the information you need now so you'll be ready to make the transition to VITAS for the additional support you need to remain comfortably at home—wherever you call home.



## How Will You Know?

Your doctor can help determine when the time is right for VITAS, but here are some symptoms to watch for:

- Repeat hospitalizations or trips to the emergency department
- Repeat visits/calls to your doctor for uncontrolled symptoms
- Unrelieved pain
- Anxiety/depression
- Medications are not as effective as they were several months ago or last year
- Frequent infections
- Weight loss/difficulty swallowing
- Inability to move or care for yourself on your own
- Nausea/vomiting
- Shortness of breath/oxygen dependence

If you or a loved one is living with a serious illness, finding the right kind of care and support can be difficult. Too often, your quality of life deteriorates as treatments become more aggressive and side effects escalate.

Despite your best efforts, you may no longer be getting the help you need. What you need is a calm, thoughtful approach to your care. What you need is a plan to address your concerns before they become crises that require another trip to the hospital or emergency department. This is when hospice care can do the most good.

## It's Time for a Transition.

When your doctor recommends hospice care, you are not out of options or treatments, and you are not giving up. Instead, hospice care puts you in control of the care you want and need, based on your values, wishes and goals.

- VITAS manages your symptoms and eases your pain.
- VITAS makes sure you are calm and comfortable at home.
- VITAS experts work as a team with your physician and caregivers to design a personalized care plan for you.

## What Does VITAS Do?

VITAS brings hospice care to you, wherever you call home. Your hospice team's goal is to make you feel better and improve the quality of your life so you can remain at home.

VITAS welcomes the participation of your primary care physician or specialist in your care. Together, we manage and monitor your symptoms and pain. We preserve your dignity. We help you transition from curative care to hospice care, or from hospital to home. We help your family make the transition, too.

Your VITAS hospice team includes:

- Physician
- Registered nurse
- Social worker
- Hospice aide
- Chaplain
- Community volunteer
- Bereavement specialist