RIVER CITY HOSPICE

UNDERSTANDING HOSPICE CARE

A guide for patients, families, and caregivers

Hospice is specialized care for people living with a terminal illness. The focus is comfort, symptom management, dignity, and support for the patient and family. Care is based on an individualized plan developed with the patient, family, and care team.

WHEN SHOULD FAMILIES CONSIDER HOSPICE?

A hospice conversation may be appropriate when a serious illness is progressing and the goals of care are shifting toward comfort and quality of life.

- Frequent hospital or ER visits
- Increasing weakness or decline
- More help needed with daily activities
- Symptoms becoming harder to manage

WHO MAY QUALIFY?

Hospice eligibility is based on the patient's medical condition and certification by the appropriate physicians. Medicare generally requires that a patient be considered terminally ill with a life expectancy of six months or less if the illness follows its normal course.

WHAT CAN HOSPICE PROVIDE?

Hospice brings an interdisciplinary team together to support the patient and family.

- Nursing and physician services
- Medications for pain and symptom control
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Aides, social work, spiritual care and counseling

WHERE CAN HOSPICE CARE BE PROVIDED?

Hospice care is commonly provided where the patient lives, including the home, assisted living, or a nursing facility. Inpatient hospice care may also be available when symptoms require it.

HOW DOES HOSPICE SUPPORT FAMILIES?

Families are an important part of hospice care. The team provides education, guidance, emotional support, and resources throughout the journey.

- Understanding the care plan
- Support with changing symptoms
- Caregiver education and resources
- Bereavement support

HOSPICE IS NOT GIVING UP

Choosing hospice means choosing care centered on comfort and quality of life when curative treatment is no longer the goal for the terminal illness.

- Patients remain involved in care decisions
- Care is individualized to personal goals
- The focus is comfort, dignity, and support

START THE CONVERSATION EARLY
Ask your physician or health care professional whether hospice may be appropriate.

OUR COMMITMENT
Compassionate Care. Fast Response. Strong Communication. Family-Centered Support.
We are dedicated to ensuring patients and families receive the highest quality hospice experience through timely admissions, physician collaboration, education, and responsive care throughout our service area.

CONTACT RIVER CITY HOSPICE
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Serving our communities with compassion and care.