RIVER CITY HOSPICE

WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR HOSPICE?

The conversation can start before a crisis.

Hospice may be appropriate when a serious illness is progressing, treatments are no longer meeting the patient's goals, or comfort and quality of life become the primary focus. A hospice conversation can help clarify options and eligibility.

DECLINING FUNCTION

Increasing weakness, fatigue, reduced mobility, difficulty with daily activities, or needing more assistance than before.

FREQUENT HOSPITAL VISITS

Repeated emergency visits or hospitalizations, worsening condition, or difficulty recovering after acute episodes.

INCREASING SYMPTOMS

Pain, shortness of breath, nausea, anxiety, restlessness, appetite changes, or other symptoms that are becoming harder to manage.

CHANGING GOALS OF CARE

The patient or family may be prioritizing comfort, dignity, time at home, or fewer burdensome interventions over treatment intended to cure the terminal illness.

CAREGIVER STRAIN

Family caregivers may be overwhelmed, unsure what to expect, or needing education, resources, and support to continue caring for a loved one.

A CONVERSATION CAN HELP

Hospice can explain services, evaluate eligibility, and help patients and families understand choices. A discussion does not obligate a patient to elect hospice.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

1 — TALK WITH THE PHYSICIAN

Share concerns about decline, symptoms, hospitalizations, and goals of care.

2 — ASK FOR A HOSPICE INFORMATION VISIT

Learn what hospice offers and ask questions—an information visit does not automatically mean enrolling.

3 — REVIEW OPTIONS TOGETHER

If eligible, discuss the plan, services, coverage, and what matters most to the patient and family.

Hospice is about the right time—not the last time. Starting a conversation early can help families feel more prepared.

Hospice eligibility is a medical determination based on clinical criteria and physician certification.

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River City Hospice • Compassionate care and support