

Understanding Hospice and Palliative Care



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Fact

- **25% of deaths occur at home - more than 80% of Americans would prefer to die at home.**



Understanding Hospice Care

Hospice Care

- Provides support and care for those in the last phases of life-limiting illness.
- Recognizes dying as part of the normal process of living.
- Affirms life and neither hastens nor postpones death.
- Focuses on quality of life for individuals and their family caregivers.

Core Aspects of Hospice Care

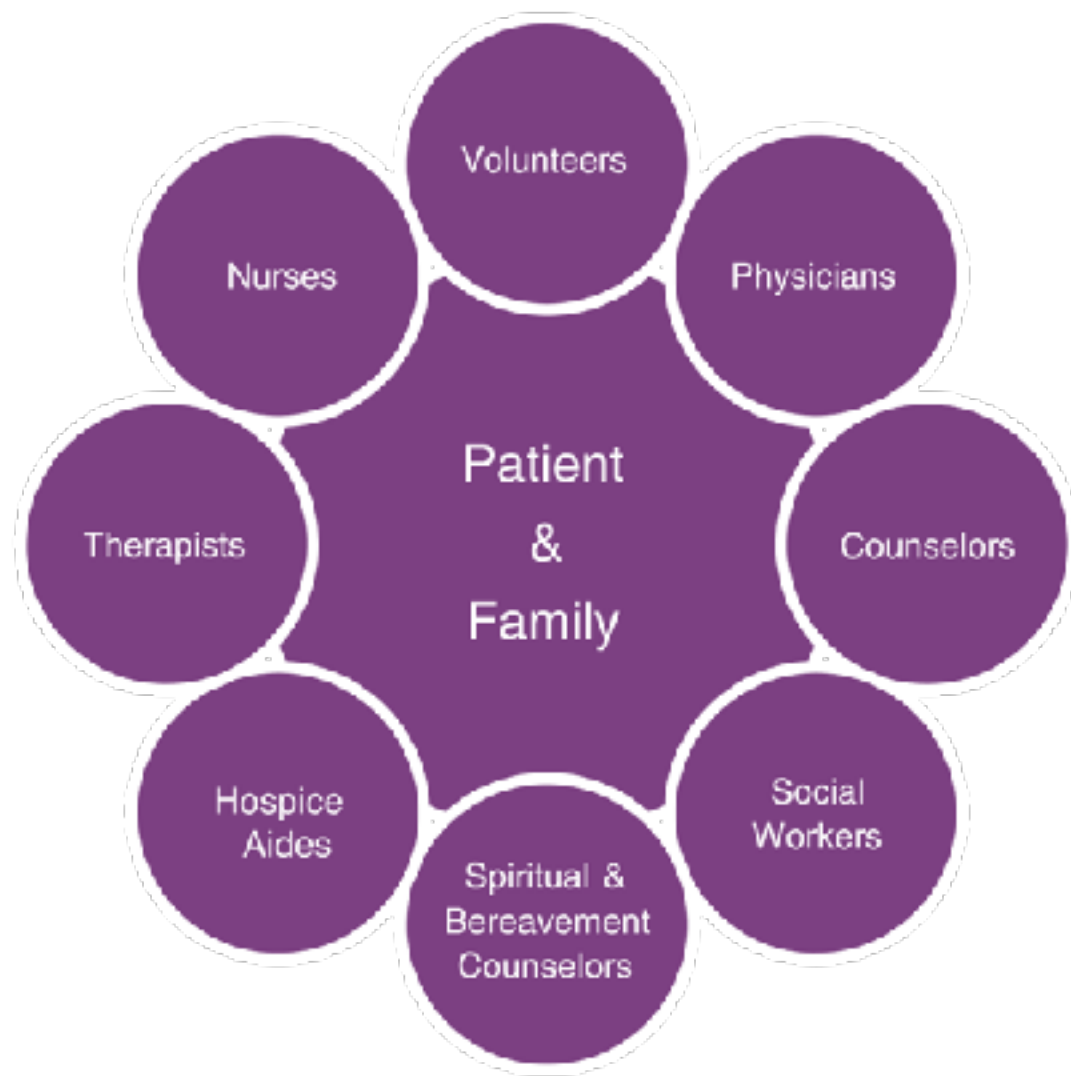
- Person- and family-centered
- Interdisciplinary team care
- Provides a range of services:
 - Interdisciplinary case management
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Durable medical equipment
 - Supplies
 - Volunteers
 - Grief support

Additional Services

Hospices offer additional services, including:

- Hospice residential care (facility)
- Inpatient hospice care
- Complementary therapies
- Specialized pediatric team
- Caregiver training
- Community bereavement services

Hospice Team Members



Work of the Hospice Team

- Develops the plan of care
- Manages pain and symptoms
- Attends to the emotional, psychosocial and spiritual aspects of dying and caregiving
- Teaches the family how to provide care
- Advocates for the patient and family
- Provides bereavement care and counseling

Where is Hospice Provided?

- Home – the patient's or loved one's home
- Nursing Facility
- Assisted Living Facility
- Hospital
- Hospice residence or unit
- Correctional setting, homeless shelter – wherever the person is located

Who Pays?

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Insurance and HMOs
- Private pay
- Sometimes a combination of these...

Admission Criteria

To qualify for hospice care, these are the general requirements:

- Life-limiting illness, prognosis is 6 months or less if the disease takes normal course
- Live in the service area
- Consent to accept services
- Forgo other medical interventions for the terminal illness



Understanding Palliative Care

What is Palliative Care?

- Treatment that enhances comfort and improves the quality of an individual's life who is facing a serious illness but may not qualify for hospice care.
- The expected outcome is relief from distressing symptoms, the easing of pain, and/or enhancing the quality of life.

Kinds of Care

Curative Care:

- Focuses on a cure to an illness and the prolonging of life.

Palliative Care:

- Focuses on comfort and quality of life that may be provided with other treatments.

Hospice Care:

- Focuses on comfort and quality of life when a cure is not possible with specialized care and services.

Services that We Offer the Community

Online Resources

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's CaringInfo website offers some useful resources with free materials.

- www.CaringInfo.org – with information and tools to help people facing serious illness, including help with advance care planning, caregiving, and grief.



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!