

What Do I Need to Get Started with Hospice Care?

In general, if a person meets the following three criteria they are eligible to receive hospice care:

1

Diagnosed with a terminal illness

2

Certified by a doctor that life expectancy is six months or less

3

Consent to receiving comfort care instead of curative care

If you or a loved one needs hospice care, what's the next step to take? If you qualify for hospice care, you and your family will work with your hospice team to set up a plan of care that meets your needs. Use the checklist below to ensure you have everything you need to get started with hospice care.

- Understand **who will be a part of your hospice team**. This team could include a combination of physicians, nurses, social workers, state tested nursing aides, chaplains, volunteers and others.
- Under the Medicare hospice benefit, you can receive hospice care for two 90-day periods, followed by an unlimited number of 60-day periods. You have **the right to change your hospice provider** once during each benefit period.
- Your hospice benefit covers care for your terminal illness and related conditions. If receiving care in the home, **determine if you need any medical equipment** such as a hospital bed, walker, wheelchair, portable oxygen, specialized mattress or bed tray.
- If your health improves or your illness goes into remission, you may no longer need hospice care. You always have **the right to stop hospice care at any time**. If you choose to stop receiving hospice care, you'll need to sign a form that indicates the date your care will end. If you're eligible, you can go back to hospice care at any time.
- It's always a good idea to **express your end-of-life wishes**. Programs like Voice Your Choice advocate for the expression and documentation of final wishes of healthcare patients.
- Check to see if your hospice provider can help you to **make a memory**. You can have a special day or record your life story for loved ones to treasure for years to come.
- If you're a veteran, you might be eligible to receive **specialized veteran-centric care**. Programs like We Honor Veterans support hospice providers in better understanding and addressing veterans' needs.
- Make the most of your days and **celebrate life**, because every day is a gift.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding hospice care, call Hospice of Southwest Ohio 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (513) 770-0820.