



*Myth*

Hospice cares only for patients diagnosed with cancer.

**FACT**

Hospice care is for patients and their loved ones during any life-limiting illness.

*Myth*

Hospice care is only for patients who are rapidly approaching death.

**FACT**

Early referral to our program enables patients and families to fully benefit from our support and services.

*Myth*

Hospice patients must be home bound.

**FACT**

Patients need not be home bound to receive services. Care is provided wherever the patient resides. Hospice helps patients to be as active as possible.

*Myth*

Choosing Hospice means the patient no longer receives treatments or therapies.

**FACT**

Occasionally, treatments or therapies may be used to provide comfort, such as chemo, radiation, physical therapy, and alternative therapies like massage.

*Myth*

Hospice provides care only for patients.

**FACT**

Hospice provides emotional and spiritual support for family members.

*Myth*

Accepting Hospice care means a patient can no longer see their own physician.

**FACT**

Hospice encourages the patient's physician to follow the patient onto the program and participate in their care.

*Myth*

Accepting Hospice care by both patients and families means that hope is lost.

**FACT**

Prior hope for cure is transformed to hope for comfort, acceptance, and peace.

*Myth*

Hospice care is only for those with private insurance.

**FACT**

Hospice serves everyone, regardless of ability to pay. Hospice is fully covered under Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance plans.

*Myth*

Hospice care is no different than Home Health.

**FACT**

Hospice is different. Hospice staff are specially trained in providing physical, emotional, and spiritual care to patients and their families.

*Myth*

Hospice patients must have a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order in place prior to obtaining assistance from Hospice.

**FACT**

There is NO requirement that states a patient must have a DNR order to receive Hospice care.

*Myth*

Hospice nurses encourage the use of morphine for all hospice patients.

**FACT**

Various pain medications are utilized to obtain a patient's comfort.

*Myth*

Once a patient is admitted to a hospice program, they cannot choose to leave.

**FACT**

Patients may choose to leave the program and seek more aggressive treatment.

*Myth*

Hospice services stop when the patient dies.

**FACT**

Hospice provides free bereavement support for families for a year or longer after the patient's death.

*Myth*

Only senior citizens can receive hospice care.

**FACT**

Hospice cares for patients of all ages - infants, children, adults and seniors.