

# I wish we'd called hospice sooner...

Family, friends, and even doctors may worry, *If I mention hospice, will my loved one think I'm giving up on them?* But for patients and families who have experienced hospice's compassionate, holistic care, they know hospice is about choosing quality of life.

Insurances follow Medicare's guidelines, allowing individuals with a prognosis of six months or less to enroll in hospice care so they can benefit from the full range of hospice services – care that nurtures the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of life. But more often, patients enroll in hospice only in the last two weeks of life – after spending months burdened by health crises and ER visits, and their families overwhelmed with worry. That's why families so often say, "I wish we had called hospice sooner."



If you are wondering when is the right time to call hospice – chances are your loved one may already be eligible for hospice's comprehensive care.

The best thing you can do for your loved one, and for your entire family, is call and see how hospice can help.



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QUALITY OF LIFE



## When Is It Time for Hospice?



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR

# *precious time*

Choosing to begin hospice care is often a difficult decision to make because it means there is a limited life expectancy. But hospice can actually be a tremendous blessing because it provides so much support and comfort.

## THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME LIMITING-ILLNESS DIAGNOSES THAT MAY MAKE A PERSON APPROPRIATE FOR HOSPICE:

- Alzheimer's Disease or other Dementias
- Cancer
- Cerebral Vascular Accident/Stroke
- Heart Disease/Failure/COPD
- Liver Disease
- Neurological Conditions (Parkinson's, MS, ALS, Huntington's Disease)
- Pulmonary Disease
- Renal Disease

If you are unsure whether it is time for hospice, our medical team is available to answer any questions you may have.

**“What I find is, the sooner people get in hospice, the better the experience is for family and for the patient.... It's a very loving choice.”**

-Kristina Kosta, nurse practitioner  
for Angela Hospice

## Other symptoms that may indicate hospice could help:

- Frequent or recurring infections
- Receiving life prolonging treatments that are no longer helpful
- No longer wanting to continue life-prolonging treatments
- Frequent hospitalizations or emergency room visits in recent months
- Weight loss, decrease in food and fluid intake
- Needing assistance in completing activities of daily living, such as eating, dressing, bathing, walking, or using the restroom
- Falling several times over the last few months
- Having difficulty with breathing, even when resting

To learn whether hospice could be right for you, call our friendly Angela Hospice team.

We can help equip you with the knowledge to make the best decisions for you and your loved ones, 866.464.7810.