Check with your local facility for a list of hospices that serve your community.

or visit the website of the
Hospice Council of West Virginia

www.hospicecouncilofwv.org

For more information
on end-of-life care contact the

WV Center for End-of-Life Care

304-293-0695 (phone)
www.wvendoflife.org

The 2007 WV Legislature amended the nursing home section of the Code of WV by adding a Section 16-5C-20 requiring nursing homes to give residents information about hospice and palliative care when the resident is terminally ill. This brochure was developed in collaboration with the West Virginia Health Care Association, the Hospice Council of West Virginia, Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification, and Bureau for Medical Services of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.



Hospice Services in a Nursing Home Facility

An Explanation of Hospice Services for Residents and Their Families

What is Hospice?

Hospice is a special way of caring for the terminally ill. Hospice provides a team of professionals who manage pain and other symptoms to help the terminally ill person live life to the fullest extent possible. The goal of hospice is to meet physical, emotional, and spiritual concerns of the patient and help family members cope with the illness and loss.

Hospice Care in the Nursing Home Facility

Hospice provides comfort-oriented care to nursing home residents when it is apparent that the resident has a terminal illness and has approximately six months or less to live if the disease follows its normal course.

The relationship of hospice and the nursing home is a partnership between health care providers, each contributing their own special expertise. The nursing home facility assures 24-hour care in a safe, comfortable, and caring environment, while hospice care provides expertise in the area of pain control and symptom management of end-stage diseases and emotional support to the resident and family.

Hospice Services

- Visits from hospice team members
- Management of terminal illness to promote physical comfort and quality of life
- Medication, medical supplies, and equipment related to the terminal illness
- Physical, Occupational, or Speech Therapy as ordered by the resident's doctor

Hospice Levels of Care

- Routine care provided wherever the patient lives, whether in a personal place of residence or a facility
- General inpatient care for pain and symptom management
- Continuous home care providing nursing care on a continuous basis to manage a medical crisis
- Respite care offered in a facility to home care patients whose caregivers need a break in care giving

Hospice Team

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Certified Nursing Assistants
- Medical Social Workers
- Clergy
- Volunteers
- Therapists

Beginning Hospice Services

Admission Guidelines

- Resident is diagnosed with a terminal illness and given a prognosis of six months or less to live if the disease follows its normal course.
- Resident would benefit from comfort/palliative care.

The resident, family, friend, nursing home or doctor can make a referral to hospice. There may be more than one hospice that serves your community. Check with your facility for a list of hospices that serve your community. A hospice worker will make a visit to determine if you are eligible for hospice services.

Payment for Hospice Services

Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance companies cover hospice services. Nursing home residents who have both Medicare and Medicaid insurance are eligible for a benefit that pays for nursing home room and board and hospice.