

Hospice Compared to Home Health



1. Hospice pays for medications relating to the primary illness, which promote comfort
2. Access to Hospice physician (expert in Hospice and palliative care)
3. Home visits by Hospice physician and Nurse Practitioner
4. Open 24/7 (real, local hospice experts available)
5. Hospice has Four levels of care:
 - Routine- care provided wherever the patient calls home
 - Inpatient- John R. Williamson Hospice House
 - Respite- Opportunity for the caregiver to take time for their well-being for up to 5 days
 - Continuous Care
6. Home health is limited to 30 days (may be renewed if the patient still qualifies)
7. No skill is needed for hospice care
8. Patient doesn't have to be homebound to qualify for hospice care
9. Attending physician has three choices of involvement in the patient's care:
 - Remain the attending, but hospice physician handles pain/symptom management
 - Hospice physician becomes the patient's attending physician
 - Remain the attending and be called for all orders
10. Chaplain visits/calls
11. Volunteers for various needs
12. Memorial services
13. Bereavement services
14. Support groups
15. Alternative therapies such as pet, music, massage, aroma, etc.
16. Licensed Social Worker makes routine visits
17. Nurses and doctors are experts in pain/symptom management
18. Durable Medical Equipment without a deductible, copay or pre-qualify
19. Oxygen with no copay, deductible, or need to pre-qualify
20. Pronounce the patient's death
21. Can give care in the nursing home
22. Hospice physicians will write the orders, including pain medications
23. Disposable supplies included
24. Do not deny based on ability to pay

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It is important to remember that Hospice provides more care for longer and offers more resources, medication options, education, and equipment. Consider Hospice if a patient is in between or has finished treatments and has a prognosis of less than a year.

*Home health is an excellent service, but there is no substitute for Hospice's level of care. Patients can always revoke Hospice, and if they do not qualify, Hospice can refer them to home health. However, if they are eligible for Hospice and go to home health, they lose valuable time and may never make it to Hospice. It is better to start with more care and work down.

Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns! You can always call or message us for information!