



WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO CONSIDER HOSPICE?

The time to learn and explore a hospice program is before a medical crisis. Our Well Care Hospice team knows that discussions about the end-of-life can be difficult, but knowing the facts can significantly reduce family and patient stress.

The time to talk about hospice is now.



| | 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH | 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH | 4 - 6 WEEKS PRIOR TO DEATH | 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO DEATH |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| PATIENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain can be well-controlled and quality of life is a priority Symptoms can be managed better Emergency room visits relating to life-limiting illness are not likely End-of-life wishes have been addressed and are being fulfilled <p>With earlier referral to a hospice program, patients may receive care that results in better management of symptoms, leading to stabilization of their condition.¹</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain can be managed and quality of life is a priority Symptoms can be managed Emergency room visits have reduced End-of-life wishes have been addressed and may be in progress <p>Research shows more than 80% of patients said they wanted to avoid hospitalization and intensive care when they are dying.³</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain and symptoms can be managed and sometimes controlled Emergency room visits are a considerable risk End-of-life wishes are discussed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain and symptoms can be managed, unless they are out of control Emergency room visits are at high risk End-of-life wishes may not be addressed due to time limitations |
| PATIENT AND FAMILY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling for patient and family is on-going Emotional and spiritual needs are being addressed Longer time span allows everyone to progress through the grieving process and find acceptance with the end-of-life diagnosis Home life is calmer Family is able to focus on time together Everyone is able to experience the full hospice benefit <p>Research shows that when patients are brought into hospice earlier, they have time to experience a fuller quality and longevity of life.²</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling for patient and family begins Emotional and spiritual needs are being addressed Little time is allowed for everyone to progress through the grieving process or reach acceptance of end-of-life diagnosis Time making the patient comfortable competes with focusing on family time together Everyone is able to experience the most of the hospice benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of time for everyone to progress through the grieving process or reach acceptance of end-of-life diagnosis Home life may be stressed Patient and family are not able to experience the hospice benefits <p>Research documents that hospice provides a better quality of life for both patients and the loved ones caring for them.⁴</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little time for everyone to progress through the grieving process or accept end-of-life diagnosis Home life may become significantly stressed Family time together may be reduced and overwhelmed by patient's immediate medical needs Patient and family are not able to experience the hospice benefits |

¹ New England Journal of Medicine. 2007. ² Patients Live Longer with Hospice Care. August 2010. ³ Americans Treated and Over-treated to Death, Yahoo News, June 2010. ⁴ National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. February 2002.