

Living with Serious Illness **Hospice Services in a Facility**

Hospice care may be provided in a nursing home, assisted living, acute care hospital, or residential hospice, as detailed below.

- **Nursing Home.** Medicare and most commercial insurances cover the cost of the hospice services in the residence. However, Medicare does not cover the cost of room and board and custodial care (approximately \$400/day in Westchester). If an individual is eligible for Medicaid, this part of the care will be covered by Medicaid; otherwise it has to be paid for with long-term care insurance or private funds. If the expected stay is short-term (respite care), usually less than two weeks, Medicare may pay for the cost, although a small co-payment may be required.

Hospice units are usually located in nursing home facilities. They have requirements for admission that may include time parameters of two weeks to one month (though this varies), and coverage where Medicare pays for the hospice services while room and board needs to be covered by Medicaid, long-term insurance policies, or private pay. In Westchester, there is the [Molly and Jack Zicklin Jewish Hospice Residence](#).

- **Acute Care Hospital.** Hospice care can be provided in an acute care hospital but only for the period of time that hospitalization is required per the hospital and hospice program. Hospice in a hospital cannot be utilized for pure custodial care needs (inability to be cared for at home). This part of the hospice benefit is available at all hospitals in Westchester County, though is usually limited to a time frame of less than two weeks with more specific requirements for eligibility by Medicare.

[Calvary Hospital in the Bronx](#), though not a hospice program, is a fully accredited acute care specialty hospital providing palliative care to adults with advanced cancer covered under Medicare. A portion of Calvary's admissions are for patients with a non-cancer diagnosis, providing that the patient meets criteria for an acute hospitalization focused on palliative interventions.

- **Residential Hospice.** In Westchester, residential hospice care is offered at **Rosary Hill** in Hawthorne under the direction of the Dominican Sisters of Rosary Hill. There is no limit to the time frame for staying at Rosary Hill and no charge for admission or stay. The residence does not provide acute management, therefore, it is similar to the care a person would receive in the home setting and not a hospital. Custodial care is included with the hospice care at Rosary Hill.

Another local hospice residence is with the **United Hospice of Rockland** in New City. It is a residential facility in which Medicare pays for the hospice services, while room and board needs to be covered by Medicaid, long-term insurance policies, or private pay.

If you are considering hospice services in a facility, it is important to discuss the payment requirements with each individual facility to understand your options.