

Living with Serious Illness

Services Offered by Hospice

Hospice offers intermittent (not around the clock) care, usually in your home, specifically:

- managing pain or other symptoms
- maximizing quality of life
- providing medical equipment necessary to care or management
- availability of home health aides 15-20 hours per week
- social work support for counseling, access of community resources, help with insurance issues, and grief/bereavement
- pastoral care
- volunteer services
- 24-hour on call system which allows for access to a nurse for medical needs that arise after hours and on weekends

At the discretion of the hospice, individual hospices may also offer:

- “continuous care” (24-hour nursing or home health aide services based on medical need (not custodial) and certain other criteria, for up to 72 hours)
- complementary services, including massage therapy, Reiki, pet, art and music therapy, and other supportive interventions based on medical recommendations and individual hospices’ policies
- “11th hour services” (additional aide services and volunteer support during the period of active dying, based on need and availability)

Not all hospices offer exactly the same services. When you select a hospice, you may want to ask about its discretionary services.