What Can Hospice Do for You?

Hospice is a type of medical care and a theory. Hospices throughout the world focus on quality of life. They believe in treating the whole person rather than just the ailment. Each individual is treated symptomatically, spiritually and emotionally with the help of clinical staff, social workers, and chaplains. Some hospices even provide additional services such as music therapy or healing touch massage. The hospice philosophy also embraces patient families by providing emotional support, care giving assistance and bereavement services.

Symptom and pain management are at the core of hospice medical care. Medical staff includes physicians, nurses and certified nursing assistants. Medical services may be provided in your home, in an assisted living or skilled nursing facility, or at an in-patient unit. The medical team works together to manage your symptoms. They also coordinate with social workers and chaplains to help you pursue end-of-life goals. Wherever you receive your hospice care, your assigned team will travel to your location to assist with needs such as medical treatment and bathing. On call medical staff is even available at night and on the weekends.

Social workers are an important part of your hospice team. They provide you and your loved ones with emotional support and help you obtain needed resources such as medical equipment. They may also help you find an appropriate living situation and they can make a referral for additional hospice services such as music therapy.

Hospice chaplains are educated in a wide range of religions and spiritual ideas. They assist patients with spiritual and emotional needs. They may help by contacting your personal religious or spiritual leader or finding a minister or priest to visit with you. They are also a great resource for your family while at the bed-side or during bereavement.

Many hospices also provide around-the-clock spiritual and emotional support via on call chaplains and social workers. These professionals can help with unexpected changes in living situations, sudden needs for medical equipment or moments of emotional distress.

The hospice team will work with you and your family to provide the best end-of-life care to fit your needs. If you are considering hospice care, contact your primary physician or your local hospice provider. They can help you determine if hospice services are right for you and assist you with the admission process.