

Common Questions about Hospice Care



- 1. Who is eligible?**

Hospice care becomes appropriate to anyone with a limited life expectancy of six months or less and the focus of curing is no longer supporting the patient's quality of life.
- 2. How do you start hospice care?**

While patients must have a doctor's referral to receive hospice care, the patient, family and friends can initiate the process by calling Hospice of the Upstate at 864-224-3358.
- 3. Who pays?**

Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurance plans provide hospice coverage. If coverage is not available, staff will help research other resources for the family.
- 4. How does Hospice manage pain?**

Hospice staffs are up-to-date on the latest medications and approaches for pain management and symptom relief; they also recognize emotional and spiritual pain is just as real. With hospice care, many patients can be as alert and comfortable as they desire.
- 5. What happens when a patient improves or lives longer than six months?**

It is not unusual for a patient to improve after admission to hospice. If the patient's overall condition stabilizes, they may be discharged and readmitted at a later date if needed. If a patient continues to be eligible for hospice, services may continue longer than six months.
- 6. Does hospice mean I have to sign a DNR?**

Having a Do Not Resuscitate order (DNR) in place is not a requirement to receive hospice care.
- 7. Who will be caring for my loved one?**

An experienced team of Doctors, Nurses, Nursing Assistants, Social Workers, Chaplains and Counselors create a plan of care according to the individual needs and wishes of each patient.
- 8. Is there Caregiver support?**

A variety of grief groups as well as caregiver support are offered to hospice families and community members.