

Lightways

Through darkness,
we bring light.

Hospice Care FAQ

Hospice care provides physical, emotional and spiritual support for patients with a life expectancy of six months or less.

An interdisciplinary team consisting of four people is assigned to each patient. This core team includes:

- Our nurse case manager who oversees all care and addresses concerns about pain and symptoms
- The certified nursing assistant who provides personal care for the patient
- A social worker who works to assure that the patient and family have all the support and resources needed
- And finally, a chaplain who supports the family's spiritual needs if desired.

This team partners with the patient and family to determine a care plan that incorporates the patient's wishes.

Care is provided in the home, skilled nursing facility or assisted living facility.

For patients who require 24-hour nursing care to control pain and symptoms, we have a 20-bed hospice inpatient unit in Joliet. This newly expanded facility is designed to optimize comfort for both patient and family.

Call us and let's talk it through. Hospice nurses are available 24/7 to answer your questions and explain how we can help.

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Hospice Care FAQ (continued)

If I start hospice care, does that mean I am giving up and stopping treatment?

Calling hospice is not giving up. It's getting the specialized care you need for time with less pain, less fear and more joy.

How do I know if I or my loved one should consider hospice care?

Some patients come to us at the suggestion of their health care providers. If your physician tells you that your condition no longer responds to medical treatment, hospice care is an important way to manage your health.

Others call us directly. While a physician's referral is necessary for admission (we'll work with your doctor to obtain that.), many people call us proactively to discuss how Lightways can support their family. Typically, families report:

- Feeling overwhelmed and unsure.
- Needing more day-to-day support and services
- Concern that managing pain and symptoms has become more difficult.

If you share any of these concerns, please call us at 815-740-4104 to discuss how Lightways can help.

Where can I receive care?

For most of our patients, we come to you. You stay in your own home, nursing facility or assisted living residence and your care team comes to you.

If your pain and symptoms cannot be managed at home, our newly renovated 20-bed Hospice Inpatient Unit in Joliet is available to provide a higher level of care.

Will I still be cared for by my primary care physicians and their team?

Your medical care will be managed by Lightways physicians and nursing team in consultation with your doctors if you desire.

What insurance coverage do I need to have hospice care paid for?

Medicare, Medicaid, and most third-party insurance pays for hospice care.

If I don't have insurance coverage, can you care for me or my loved one?

Lightways provides hospice care for everyone who needs it, regardless of their ability to pay.

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