

Myths About Hospice



MYTH ~~X~~

FACT ✓

1) Hospice is a place.

1) Hospice care takes place wherever the patient calls home, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

2) Hospice is only for patients who have given up hope and are close to death.

2) Hospice is about living life as fully as possible. In fact, patients and families receive the greatest benefit when hospice care is started early.

3) Families will have to pay a lot of money for hospice care.

3) Hospice care, including medications, medical supplies, and equipment related to the hospice diagnosis, is a Medicare benefit. Most private insurers also cover hospice.

4) Hospice is only for cancer patients.

4) A large number of hospice patients have a diagnosis other than cancer, such as cardiovascular or chronic lung diseases.

5) Since hospice care is only available for six months, delay enrollment as long as possible.

5) Hospice patients can stay on hospice care as long as medically necessary while the disease takes its normal course. Hospice eligibility requires a prognosis of less than six months, but patients who survive that period can come on and off hospice care, or be re-certified for hospice care as necessary.



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6) Hospice uses morphine which causes the patient to die sooner.

7) Hospice stops feeding patients and they become dehydrated and starve to death.

8) Hospice is only for the sick family member.

9) It is a difficult process to begin hospice care.

6) Hospice uses morphine and other pain medications to keep the patient comfortable. It does not cause death.

7) Hospice encourages patients to eat and drink only what they want. It is natural for some patients to not feel hunger or thirst. This is part of the dying process as the body shuts down.

8) The focus of hospice is not only on medical care, but on the emotional, social and spiritual needs of the entire family. We assist family members and caregivers during the illness and offer bereavement support during the thirteen months following death.

9) It only takes one phone call. Livingston County Hospice takes care of everything else. We will work with the patient's physician to determine if hospice care is appropriate and to arrange for services to begin.

Call Livingston County Hospice to schedule an informational visit for you or your loved one at 585-243-7290.

We are dedicated to helping you and your family achieve comfort and peace.

