



A+ Senior Care
We Are Here To Serve You

Newsletter

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Hospice Care

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- In 2010, an estimated 1.58 million patients received services from hospice.
- Hospice focuses on relieving pain and symptoms (known as palliative care).
- The physical and emotional benefits of hospice are many.
- By reducing collective anxiety and fears, hospice allows both patient and family members to make the most of the time remaining.

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Because death remains an uncomfortable “taboo” subject in our society, some terminally ill patients and their families are reluctant to discuss the possibility of hospice care. But according to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), “In 2010, an estimated 1.58 million patients received services from hospice”. This type of highly specialized care isn’t about giving up on your loved one; It’s about quality of life and living with dignity despite terminal illness.

Hospice focuses on relieving pain and symptoms (known as palliative care), rather than curing the actual illness. Typically, it is for people whose life expectancy is six months or less. For most hospice patients, services are provided at home. To qualify for Medicare certification, caring.com indicates that hospices must offer 16 separate core and auxiliary services. “Core services include bereavement counseling, nutritional services and doctor services. Continuous homecare, physical therapy, medication administration and household services are all examples of auxiliary services. Also important is whether a

hospice will accept your insurance.”

The physical and emotional benefits of hospice are many. By reducing collective anxiety and fears, hospice allows both patient and family members to make the most of the time remaining. When a terminally ill person decides to switch from curative treatment to hospice care, they avoid the potential risks of over-treatment in a hospital setting. Medicare hospice coverage requirements include signing of an elective statement and re-certification at the beginning of each benefit period.

We feel it’s important to dispel some of the misperceptions you might have regarding hospice care. Rather than “dying faster,” a hospice patient may possibly gain precious days, weeks or months, beyond all expectations. Choosing hospice means your loved one is in control and refocused on how they want to experience their time left, both medically and personally. Also, hospice isn’t just for cancer patients; anyone with a life-limiting illness is eligible for such care.

It’s important to interview each



hospice on your shortlist to determine which particular one meets a loved one’s needs. Questions to ask the hospice administrator include: what services the hospice provides; how often a nurse or other hospice staff will visit; what quality standards the hospice meets; how are home caregivers trained? The NHPCO’s philosophy is that “At the center of hospice and palliative care is the belief that each of us has the right to die pain-free and with dignity.” We wholeheartedly agree.

Resources:

- www.nhpc.org
- www.caring.com
- www.helpguide.org
- www.hospicecareinc.org



CLIENT CARE BILL OF RIGHTS

All A+ Senior Care Clients have the right to:

All A+ Senior Care Clients have the right to have your sense of privacy respected through considerate treatment of your property, confidentiality of all records, conversations and all dealings.

- Be treated with dignity, respect, and honesty by all employees
- Receive the highest quality care regardless of disability, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation or gender
- Communicate any and all preferences regarding a routine and a daily schedule
- Be duly informed of all service cost
- Review your service expectations with an A+ Senior Care staff person
- Obtain a signed copy of the service agreement
- Receive services from Caregivers who are screened, bonded and insured through a reputable and trustworthy company
- Have your sense of privacy respected through considerate treatment of your property, confidentiality of all records, conversations and all dealings
- Have access to notes from client journal and filed data
- Know all contact information for A+ Senior Care Staff persons
- Call the agency any time to request changes or register concerns



For more Information on A+ Home Healthcare Services, call our office at 609-450-1719