

“When It’s Time, Hospice Is by Your Side.”

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One of the hardest decisions a person makes in their lifetime is when to enlist the services of a palliative care provider as they near end of life. Often the time leading up to a terminal diagnosis, and the days following while seeking care and treatment, can be very overwhelming and filled with fear.

It is not until after persons and their loved ones engage with hospice that they begin to experience their feelings of grief turning into feelings of hope, their pain transitioning to comfort, their fear diminishing and they can find peace. It is then when often the phrase “I wish I would have called sooner” is heard by hospice providers.

Unfortunately, the stigma associated with hospice makes it challenging for individuals to be open to the idea of engaging with hospice early on. Understanding the need for hospice care is often overshadowed by the fear of not knowing what to expect from end of life. And understandably, the fear of facing a terminal diagnosis can sometimes cause individuals to want to lose hope.

Coming to terms with one’s mortality is overwhelming and individuals need not face end of life alone. Hospice care is designed to bring dignity, comfort, and compassionate



care to all people as they face their end of life experience. Hospice care is “hope-filled” and helps patients and their loved ones experience better days and nights as they travel through those final days.

So how does one know it’s the right time to call hospice?

When: End-of-life care is available for people of *all ages*. Patients become eligible for hospice care when they choose care focused on comfort rather than cure, and when the physician estimates the person’s life expectancy to be months rather than years. Through *physical, emotional and spiritual care*, Hospice helps patients feel comfortable, enhance their quality of life, and provide support when it’s needed most.

Where: Hospice alleviates the strain of caregiving by providing care wherever someone calls home. This may include a person’s residence, a skilled or assisted living environment, or a hospital setting.

Why: Hospice care is delivered with a team approach of physicians, skilled nurses, licensed medical social workers, home health aides, chaplains, dietitians, and volunteers all who specialize in ensuring each patient receives an individualized care plan tailored to meet their end of life wishes.

How: Don’t wait. Make the call to hospice. Trained hospice staff is available to provide you with answers to all the tough questions associated with understanding end of life. Take time now to understand hospice so that when the time comes you know your options.

For more information about Hospice of Holland programs and services, to make a referral, or for answers to your questions about hospice care please call 616-396-2972. View www.hollandhospice.org to learn and hear from others why care from Hospice of Holland made a difference for their loved one.

Where fear becomes peace.

hospice
of holland

www.hollandhospice.org