

THE HOSPICE PHILOSOPHY

1. We believe that hospice is a concept of health care specifically designed for individuals and/or families experiencing a terminal illness (six months or less).
2. We believe in providing tranquil, peaceful, and friendly surroundings and encounters throughout the terminal illness when curative measures are no longer possible.
3. We believe the dying process is as natural as living.
4. We believe the final stages of life can be a life-affirming experience. In this respect, we strive to provide support to the family members caring for the dying patient in a familiar home setting for as long as appropriate. Should in-patient services become necessary, this care will be provided under the hospice benefit as well.
5. We believe in the right of the patient to retain control over his/her life and dying, thereby including the patient, family, or primary caregiver in the plan of care.
6. We believe that if the patient experiences pain and suffering, whether the result of physical symptoms, social or emotional issues or spiritual concerns, these symptoms can be treated, and many times alleviated.
7. We believe in openness and honesty, and we uphold the need to educate and inform the patient/family of the terminal illness and the patient's imminent death. We recognize that the family/significant other can also experience suffering.
8. We believe bereavement support and counseling are an integral part of a hospice program. It is essential to assist the family members as they go through the grieving process. We can provide volunteer support for the patient/family, including before and after the loss.

Defining hospice care

“Hospice care affirms life and dying as a normal process. It neither hastens nor postpones death, it provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms, it integrates the psychological and the spiritual aspects of care, it offers a supportive system to help patients live as actively as possible until death, and it offers a support system to help the family cope during the patient's illness and through their own bereavement.”

-World Health Organization

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