

## HOSPICE OVERVIEW

<p><b>What is Hospice?</b></p>	<p>Hospice is end-of-life care offered to patients with a medically terminal condition. By definition, a terminal condition is such that if the illness were to advance normally, life expectancy would be less than 6 months.</p>		
<p><b>Goal of Hospice?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comfort care addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering.</li> <li>• Improving ‘Quality of Life’</li> <li>• Respect for final wishes</li> <li>• Positive end-of-life experience</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Who can receive care?</b></p>	<p>Patients with a terminal condition – care is provided to address all end-of-life needs. In addition, families and caregivers also receive emotional and spiritual support from the hospice care team. A doctor’s order is needed to initiate hospice care.</p>		
<p><b>Who gives care?</b></p>	<p>An inter-disciplinary team that includes medical doctor, nurse, social worker, home-health aide, chaplain, and volunteer.</p>		
<p><b>Where is care provided?</b></p>	<p>Where patient resides: home, family home, nursing home, senior living facilities, etc. Hospice is a philosophy, not a place.</p>		
<p><b>Who pays for care?</b></p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare Part A</li> <li>• Medicaid</li> <li>• Insurance</li> <li>• Private Pay</li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>What if I have no insurance and don’t quality for Medicare or Medicaid?</b> Most hospices will bill for services using a sliding-fee schedule. No one is ever turned away for inability to pay.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare Part A</li> <li>• Medicaid</li> <li>• Insurance</li> <li>• Private Pay</li> </ul>	<p><b>What if I have no insurance and don’t quality for Medicare or Medicaid?</b> Most hospices will bill for services using a sliding-fee schedule. No one is ever turned away for inability to pay.</p>
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<p><b>How long can one get care?</b></p>	<p>As long as the patient continues to decline and be ‘terminal’. This is determined at the end of each benefit period (two 90-day periods, followed by unlimited 60-day periods).</p>		
<p><b>What are the levels of hospice care?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine Care</li> <li>• Respite Care (temporary 5-day nursing home stay to provide caregiver relief)</li> <li>• Inpatient Care (short-term care in a hospital setting to manage symptoms)</li> <li>• Continuous Care (crisis care provided at home to manage symptoms).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>What are some reasons for ending hospice care?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving out of their hospice’s service area</li> <li>• No longer meeting ‘terminal’ eligibility criteria</li> <li>• Seeking treatment/cure</li> </ul>		

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## HOSPICE FAQs

- **Does entering hospice mean there is no hope?** Hospice focuses on the hope that every day will be the best it can be rather than that the disease will be cured. The goal of hospice is to ease the suffering of chronically and terminally ill people and their families and friends. Frequently patients with advanced disease are discharged from hospice because their condition improves.
- **Does hospice do anything to hasten or delay death?** No. The purpose of hospice is to relieve pain, control symptoms and enhance the quality of life for patients and their families.
- **Will my primary doctor be involved in my care?** Yes. The hospice team will work with your physician to develop and revise, as necessary, an individualized *Plan of Care*. The hospice team will assess your condition and needs on a regular basis and report back to your physician.
- **Is hospice care limited to six months?** No. Patients may receive hospice care as long as their condition remains appropriate. Assessments are periodically made to be sure the patient's condition warrants hospice care.
- **Is hospice only for people with cancer?** Hospice cares for patients with any life-limiting illness such as cancer as well as congestive heart failure, renal and liver diseases, ALS, dementia, pulmonary disease, HIV/AIDS and failure to thrive.
- **With hospice care can I still leave the house?** Yes. With your doctor's guidance, and provided it is safe to do so, you may do just about anything that keeps you full of life. It's your choice!
- **Does hospice require me to have a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) Order?** No. However, hospice staff can help you develop a *Plan of Care* that focuses on noninvasive relief of symptoms rather than curative care.

Adapted from information provided at <http://www.hospicare.org/questions-answered/>

## HELPFUL ARTICLES

### The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

- **Frequently Asked Questions** about hospice:  
[www.nhpco.org/about-hospice-and-palliative-care/hospice-faqs](http://www.nhpco.org/about-hospice-and-palliative-care/hospice-faqs)
- **Choosing a Quality Hospice** (includes a 4-page worksheet):  
[www.nhpco.org/resources/choosing-hospice](http://www.nhpco.org/resources/choosing-hospice)

### Next Step in Care, a program of the United Hospital Fund

- **Family Caregiver's Guide to Hospice and Palliative Care (available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian) that is especially helpful for caregivers.**  
[www.nextstepincare.org/uploads/File/Guides/Hospice/hospice.pdf](http://www.nextstepincare.org/uploads/File/Guides/Hospice/hospice.pdf)

### Hospice Foundation of America

- **How to Choose** [a hospice]:  
<https://hospicefoundation.org/End-of-Life-Support-and-Resources/Coping-with-Terminal-Illness/How-to-Choose>
- **Dispelling Hospice Myths**  
<https://hospicefoundation.org/Hospice-Care/Dispelling-Hospice-Myths>
- **A Caregiver's Guide to the Dying Process** (17 pages, free online):  
[https://hospicefoundation.org/hfa/media/Files/Hospice\\_TheDyingProcess\\_Docutech-READERSPREADS.pdf](https://hospicefoundation.org/hfa/media/Files/Hospice_TheDyingProcess_Docutech-READERSPREADS.pdf)

## Hospice Services in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties

When selecting a hospice, keep in mind that many hospices provide service in geographical locations beyond where their administrative offices are located.

### **A-Med Community Hospice**

[www.amedhomehealth.com/services/hospice.aspx](http://www.amedhomehealth.com/services/hospice.aspx)

Austin / 512-323-6500

### **Accolade Home Care & Hospice**

[www.accoladehomecare.com/Services/Hospice-Services.aspx](http://www.accoladehomecare.com/Services/Hospice-Services.aspx)

Round Rock / 512-238-6000

### **Altus Hospice of the Hills**

<http://altushospicecare.com/locations/austin/>

Austin /

Round Rock / 512-872-2291

### **AseraCare Hospice**

<http://aseracare.com>

Austin / 512-218-9890

Bastrop / 512-308-1948

### **Bluebonnet Hospice**

[www.bluebonnethc.com/hospice-care/](http://www.bluebonnethc.com/hospice-care/)

Wimberley / 512-537-8950

### **Brookdale Hospice Austin**

[www.brookdale.com/en/our-services/health-care-services/hospice/brookdale-hospice-austin.html](http://www.brookdale.com/en/our-services/health-care-services/hospice/brookdale-hospice-austin.html)

Austin / 512-379-2513

### **Capitol Hospice**

<http://capitolhospicecare.com/>

Austin / 512-637-6928

### **Central Texas Medical Center Hospice**

[www.adventisthealthsystem.com/page.php?section=locations&page=entity&id=83](http://www.adventisthealthsystem.com/page.php?section=locations&page=entity&id=83)

San Marcos / 512-754-6159

### **Compassionate Care Hospice**

<http://cchnet.net/san-marcos-texas/>

San Marcos / 512-393-6003

### **Cuidado Casero Hospice**

<http://cuidadocasero.com/our-locations/austin/>

Austin / 512-419-7738

### **Edwards Home Health & Hospice**

<http://edwardshomehealthandhospice.com/>

Austin / 512-763-4690

### **Encompass Home Health & Hospice**

[www.ehhi.com/hospice](http://www.ehhi.com/hospice)

Austin / 512-326-4191

### **Gentiva Hospice:** See Kindred Hospice

### **Grace Hospice**

[www.ghospice.com](http://www.ghospice.com)

Austin / 512-300-2100

### **Guiding Hospice**

[www.guidinghospicecare.com](http://www.guidinghospicecare.com)

Round Rock / 512-368-7275

### **Halcyon Home Hospice**

[www.myhalcyonhome.com/hospice/](http://www.myhalcyonhome.com/hospice/)

Austin / 512-815-9009

### **Harbor Hospice**

[www.harborhospice.com](http://www.harborhospice.com)

Austin / 512-443-7100

Georgetown / 512-443-7100

### **HealthSense Hospice**

[www.healthsensehospice.com](http://www.healthsensehospice.com)

Austin / 512-900-2548

### **Heart to Heart Hospice of Austin**

[www.hearttohearhospice.com](http://www.hearttohearhospice.com)

Austin / 512-707-2600

San Marcos / 512-667-6816

### **Holy Savior Hospice**

[www.holysaviorhospice.com/](http://www.holysaviorhospice.com/)

Austin / 512-436-8119

### **Hospice Austin / Christopher House**

[www.hospiceaustin.org](http://www.hospiceaustin.org)

Services are available to anyone living in Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell and Hays counties.

Austin / 512-342-4700

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**Hospice Compassus**

[www.compassus.com/](http://www.compassus.com/)

Austin / 512-462-0538

Round Rock / 512-7127

**Interim HealthCare Hospice**

[www.interimhealthcare.com/hospice](http://www.interimhealthcare.com/hospice)

Austin / 512-582-0333

Pflugerville / 512-454-5711

**Kindred Hospice**

[www.kindredathome.com/](http://www.kindredathome.com/)

Austin / 512-651-9227

Georgetown / 512-868-0505

San Marcos / 512-392-9138

**New Century Hospice**

[www.newcenturyhospice.com](http://www.newcenturyhospice.com)

Austin / 512-342-8288

Round Rock / 512-864-0644

**Project Transitions, Inc.  
(Doug's House)**

Serves clients with HIV/AIDS

[www.projecttransitions.org](http://www.projecttransitions.org)

Austin / 512-454-8646

**Resolutions Hospice**

[www.myhospice.us/](http://www.myhospice.us/)

Austin / 512-343-5555

Bastrop / 512-343-5555

**River City Hospice**

[www.rivercityhospice.com/](http://www.rivercityhospice.com/)

Austin / 512-292-4929

**Robinson Creek Home Health & Hospice**

[www.robinsoncreekhomehealth.com/hospice.html](http://www.robinsoncreekhomehealth.com/hospice.html)

Austin / 512-328-7606

**Serenity Hospice**

No website:

Bastrop / 512-985-6176

**Silverado Hospice**

[www.silveradocare.com/silverado-locations/texas/austin/austin-hospice/](http://www.silveradocare.com/silverado-locations/texas/austin/austin-hospice/)

Austin / 512-827-6895

**Texas Home Health Hospice**

<http://accentcare.com/family-of-companies/texas-home-health/>

Austin / 512-372-4194

**Valerian Home Health & Hospice**

<http://valerianhhh.com/hospice.php>

Round Rock / 512-248-0016

**Wesleyan Hospice**

[www.wesleyanhomes.org/hospice.php](http://www.wesleyanhomes.org/hospice.php)

Georgetown / 512-863-8848

**Hospice services are expanding rapidly in our five-county service area.**

**Help FCACTX keep this list updated by calling 512-480-0555 or  
emailing us at [office@fcactx.org](mailto:office@fcactx.org).**