
11 FACTS

*to know when
considering*

HOSPICE CARE

HOSPICE OF LAKE
CUMBERLAND



What is Hospice Care?

Hospice care is a special kind of supportive care for patients with a terminal condition or those near the end of life. The focus of hospice care is on comfort and quality of life, rather than cure. The goal is to enable patients to be comfortable and free of pain so they may have a better quality of life. Studies have indicated a longer length of days lived with hospice care.

When Should Hospice Care Begin?

Hospice care should begin as soon as a patient receives a terminal diagnosis or when the gradual decline signifies end-of-life is nearing. Entering hospice care as soon as a terminal diagnosis is made gives us the ability to stabilize the patient and make them comfortable thus providing a richer quality of life. Early admission is key for best outcome.





Death is not the
OPPOSITE
of life
but a part of it



HOSPICE
Of Lake Cumberland

How to Enter Hospice Care



Entering hospice care is easy. All you have to do is call or download the form below. Anyone can refer a patient to hospice care - doctor, patient, family member, friend.

We serve the following counties: Pulaski, Casey, Russell, McCreary, Wayne, Cumberland & Clinton.

800-937-9596 anytime, day or night.



800-937-9596

hospicelc.org

FACT ONE

The Time Frame Might Surprise You

Hospice care is typically most beneficial when begun as soon as it has been determined a patient has a limited life expectancy. Care begins when a patient enrolls in hospice treatment and extends for family members throughout the bereavement period.

Patients and loved ones receive most benefit when they begin hospice care early, because, in most cases, the patient can be stabilized and enjoy a higher quality of life. Studies have shown that when hospice is begun early, patients may live an additional 29-days. Patients admitted near death are kept comfortable but many of our other benefits cannot come into play at that point.



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FACT TWO

Most Hospice Care Occurs Where You Call Home



The majority of our patients prefer to spend their last journey of life at home - that may be their physical home, a nursing home or other location. This allows patients to remain in their own space - where they feel most comfortable.

The Jean Waddle Care Center is available to HLC patients who need to be stabilized before going home or who wish to spend their final days in a more clinical setting.

Because our patients help design their personal care plan, they are free to make choices that work best for them. Home is where the heart is, and that is where most folks like to spend their final days. Our staff comes to the patient, where they can be near their loved ones and the comfort and familiarity of home.



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FACT THREE

The Patient is in Control and Can
Change Their Mind



People nearing end of life often feel like they don't have choices and options. This can be frustrating.

At Hospice of Lake Cumberland, we know that your goals and needs may change over time. If you choose to seek aggressive medical treatment, you can opt out of hospice care at any time for as long as you like. You can opt back in later, as long as you still qualify.



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FACT FOUR

Hospice is for the Entire Family



Our hospice team is concerned about the well-being of our patients AND their families. Our services are wide-ranging and may be customized to fit the needs of the patient and their unique family.

The hospice team consists of doctor, nurses, nursing aids, social workers, chaplains and bereavement counselor. The team is there to deliver comfort, care and training to both patient and family/caregivers. We believe families are on this journey together and are viewed as a unit.

Hospice bereavement services continue for family and loved ones after the patient has passed away.



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FACT FIVE

Hospice Care is Covered by Most Insurance



Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurance. HLC provides end-of-life services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

Patients may keep their own doctor if that is their wish. This is important to many of our patients.

*Hospice of Lake Cumberland does not deny care to a patient because of inability to pay.



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FACT SIX

The Goal of Pain Management is to Enable Patients to Live Well - Not Sedate



At Hospice of Lake Cumberland, we focus on giving our patients the highest quality of life achievable. An important fact to remember is the sooner a patient is admitted into hospice care, the sooner we can stabilize the patient, allowing them comfort - not sedation. Our patients help choose their care plan with their care team providers in order to take an active role in their care. It is our goal to see our patients do the things important to them. Whether it's taking a trip, celebrating a holiday or family event, attending the wedding of a grandchild, or something else, when possible, we work to help our patients do those things that will create tender memories.



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FACT SEVEN

Hospice Care Can Enrich the Last Stage of Life



Hospice care is structured to support the more personal issues at the final stage of life. Patients will often want to focus on their relationships in a deeper way. Often the patient and family members wish to reach a sense of closure. Many patients have life-goals they wish to reach such as attending a wedding or event. For many, this time in life is also a time where patients wish to make sure their affairs are in order and directed according to their wishes.

Hospice of Lake Cumberland has designed our care to include helping people achieve these important goals. In fact, making a list of the "important stuff" and working that list with the patient is something our social workers give focused attention to. We meet our patients where they are and help them get to where they want to be.



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FACT EIGHT

Hospice of Lake Cumberland is a Registered 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit



NON PROFIT

As a non-profit, our mission is serving our patients and their families. Period. We don't answer to shareholders and we don't worry about beating numbers. That's just not why we were founded.

HLC is free to concentrate our efforts on providing top-notch comfort and care for our patients and support for their family members. This translates into better experiences for patients and their loved ones. Our organization was built on love and quality of care. ***Hospice of Lake Cumberland is about people, not profit.***



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FACT NINE

Hospice is For Now - and Later



Lily is an end-stage cancer patient. She entered hospice care when her doctor informed her nothing more could be done to cure her. Lily works with her doctor and her hospice team to create the care plan that best works for her. She even made a bucket list and, with the help of her hospice social worker and nurse, was able to attend her granddaughter's wedding.

Lily's daughter, Kim, is tasked as Lily's primary caregiver, although Lily's husband also pitches in. Lily is pleasantly surprised to see how hospice helps her family members and offers them emotional support as well as training in best care practices. Her family learns that bereavement services will extend for them after Lily passes. There is even an annual bereavement summer camp, Camp Promise, for children ages 6-16 that will be a blessing for Sammy, Lily's 8-year old grandson.

Over time, Lily and her family have formed a strong bond with their hospice team. The family feels supported and Lily is secure in the knowledge that her family will be okay when her time comes.



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FACT TEN

Hospice is Not Just for Cancer Patients



Many folks think hospice care is only for those with cancer. While many hospice patients have a cancer diagnosis, the majority do not.

Hospice care is for those with a life-limiting condition who have been given a reduced amount of time to live.

We serve patients with COPD, renal failure, dementia, heart disease, ALS, liver and/or kidney disease, stroke and diabetes to name just a few.

Another misconception about hospice care is that it is only for older people. However, age is not a factor for hospice care.



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FACT ELEVEN

Hospice Training Educates Patient & Family



It is natural for patients and their family members to want to understand what is happening to them and how to best care for them. They also want to understand what to expect in the future.

Hospice offers focused training to patients and family members in order to achieve the best possible outcome. Training includes but is not limited to:

- Medication dosage and use
- Disease progression
- Symptom control
- Caregiver tips/burnout prevention
- Wound care
- How to care for a bed-bound patient
- Patient safety and care
- Stages patient will go through



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THE TAKE-AWAY

- Hospice care is for anyone with a terminal condition, regardless of age.
- Hospice care is covered by Medicaid, Medicare and most private insurance.
- Hospice of Lake Cumberland does not deny care to anyone because of inability to pay.
- Hospice care is for the patient AND their family.
- Hospice gives training to patient and family/caregivers on how to best care for patient.
- **Hospice is about living** - it does not mean giving up. It means living life to the fullest possible.
- Most hospice care happens in the place the patient calls home - house, apartment, nursing home, etc.
- Hospice is a team approach to patient care. The team consists of: doctor, nurse, nursing aids, social worker and chaplain.
- You may withdraw from hospice care at any time and re-enter care later - as long as you still qualify medically.
- Hospice is most effective when a patient enters care as soon as a terminal diagnosis is made.



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Let Us Help

800-937-9596

www.hospicelc.org

Hospice of Lake Cumberland proudly serves the following
South Central Kentucky counties:
Pulaski, McCreary, Wayne, Casey, Russell, Clinton &
Cumberland