

Facts About Hospice

Even after your loved one goes on hospice, he or she can go off hospice if conditions improve. It is not an irreversible decision, and there is no limit to the number of times a patient can access hospice care.

There are four levels of care:

- Routine home care—available wherever your loved one considers home (private residence, nursing home, assisted living community). The hospice team members visit your loved one, usually singly and at varying intervals based on a routine that is determined by the plan of care. This could be daily, semiweekly, weekly, etc., depending on your loved one's needs.
- Intensive comfort care—provided in the home in continuous shifts of up to 24 hours by hospice nurses and aides during brief periods of crisis. This level of care would be appropriate if, for example, your loved one's medical needs required constant monitoring in the home, nursing home or assisted living community.
- Inpatient care—provided in an inpatient hospice unit/bed in a designated healthcare facility for a short period when your loved one's medical needs cannot be managed at home.
- Respite care—patients being cared for at home are offered a brief stay in an inpatient setting to give family members and other caregivers a rest or when they need to be away.