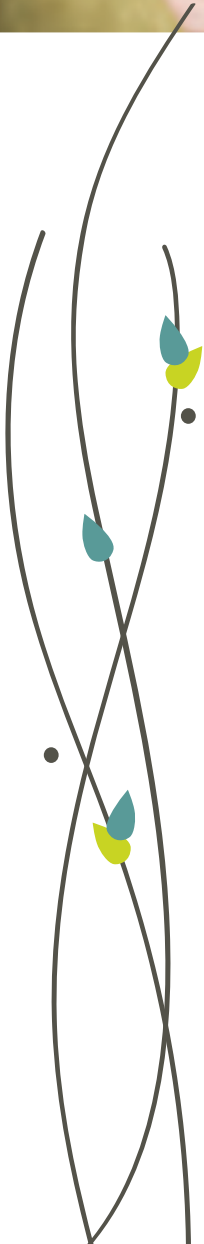




Transitions
HospiceCare

How can hospice
help you?



Expert care
at every turn.

Transitions
HospiceCare



Being told someone you love is going to die sparks many transitions for the whole family. The type of care changes from a focus on curing to a focus on comfort. You want to spend more time together and to share as many of life's treasured moments as possible in the time that remains.

Hospice Philosophy, Definition, History.

The term "hospice" can be traced back to medieval times. Then, hospice was a place of shelter and rest for weary and sick travelers. Today, hospice is not a place of care but rather a way of care. It uses a team to care for dying patients rather than curing the disease. It recognizes dying as an important part of life. A big part of hospice is recognizing that each of us has the right to die pain-free and with dignity while our loved ones receive caring support.

The modern-day hospice movement was invented by Cicely Saunders in 1967 through St. Christopher's Hospice in London, England. In the United States, the first hospice opened in New Haven, Connecticut in 1974 and many others started at the "grass roots" level in the late 1970s.

Nondiscrimination and Accessibility

Transitions LifeCare complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. ATTENTION: If you speak another language, assistance services, free of charge, are available to you by calling 1-919-828-0890.

Since we began as Hospice of Wake County in 1979, Transitions HospiceCare has helped patients and families through this tough yet meaningful stage of life.

Transitions HospiceCare can do many things to increase comfort and peace-of-mind and find ways to help those final months be lived more fully.

Best of all, Transitions HospiceCare helps meet the needs and wishes of the patient and family. From giving a helping hand to providing serious care during a crisis, we can meet the changing needs of you and your family.

The Hospice Team

Transitions HospiceCare gives you a caring team of professionals and volunteers:

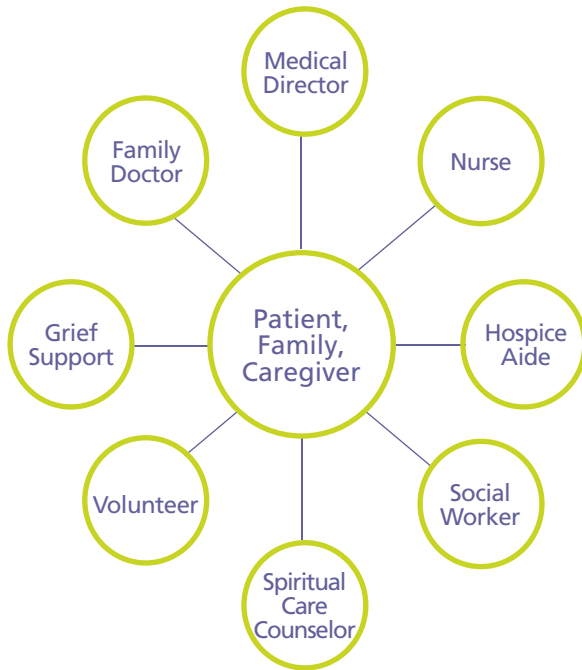
- Expert medical care – Together with your current doctor, a Transitions HospiceCare doctor supervises the care plan. Nurses make regular visits and are available by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer questions or respond to serious needs.
- Emotional and spiritual support – The entire family has access to counseling and support from our social workers and spiritual care counselors (sometimes called chaplains). In addition, once the hospice team is no longer needed, you can access grief support services for adults and children that include one-on-one counseling and support groups.
- Activities of daily living – Our hospice aides help with bathing, grooming, changing bed linens, and other activities of everyday life.
- Companionship and relief – Volunteers sit with and talk to patients. They can run errands for the family or give family members a break to take care of household duties or simply take time to refresh.

It's your family. It's your life. It's your choice.



Coping with a terminal illness? We help make life's final months more fulfilling.

Transitions HospiceCare



While Medicare is the insurance that pays for most people's hospice care, other insurance plans may not provide coverage exactly the same way. We will work with you and your insurance plan to let you know what is covered and what is not. Transitions HospiceCare also accepts Medicaid, most commercial and private insurance, and private payments. *True to our heritage, we accept all patients regardless of their ability to pay.*

The Medicare Hospice Benefit

You can get your Medicare hospice benefits when you meet all of these conditions:

- You're eligible for Medicare Part A.
- Your doctor and the hospice doctor certify that you're terminally ill and have six months or less to live if your condition runs its normal course.

- You sign a statement that says you give up Medicare payments for services or treatments related to your terminal condition (Medicare will still pay for treatments and services for any health problems that aren't related to your terminal condition).
- You get care from a Medicare-approved hospice program.

Four Levels of Care

The Hospice Medicare Benefit provides for four levels of care:

Routine Home Care

– provided where the patient lives. This is the most common level of care.

Continuous Care, or "Crisis Care"

– a special benefit given during a time of uncontrolled symptoms used to allow the patient to stay at home. We will provide a minimum of eight hours of care during a 24-hour period; more than half of the hours must be provided by a nurse. There are certain rules that must be met to qualify for this kind of care.

Inpatient Respite Care – provided for family/caregivers who need a break ("respite") from daily caregiving. This care, pending appropriate approval, is available for a maximum of five nights in a nursing facility, or the William M. Dunlap Center for Caring ("Hospice Home"), if appropriate.

General Inpatient Care – provided for pain control or acute symptom management. This care can be provided in the Hospice Home (if appropriate) or hospital. Care is provided as long as symptoms are very difficult to manage.



Are you or someone you love living with a serious illness? We can help.

What Does the Medicare Hospice Benefit Cover?

People who have Medicare Part A get non-curative medical treatment and support for their end-of-life condition. The Medicare Hospice Benefit pays for most expenses related to the patient's terminal diagnosis and any other related conditions, such as:

- Medications for managing pain and symptoms related to the hospice diagnosis.
- Medical supplies.
- Services provided by the Transitions HospiceCare "team": nurse, social worker, spiritual care counselor, hospice aide, and volunteers.
- Medications, equipment and supplies – Most medications, equipment (such as a walker, wheelchair, hospital bed, bedside commode), oxygen, and supplies related to the terminal condition are included. And, they are delivered right to the patient's home.

What If I Live in a Nursing Facility?

In some circumstances, Medicare Part A will not allow billing by both the hospice and the nursing facility for care provided at the same time. A patient who has Medicare Part A may qualify for up to 100 days to have room and board paid by Medicare (must be coordinated with nursing facility staff). Patients who no longer have or qualify for a skilled or rehabilitative need in the skilled nursing facility may still choose to use their Hospice Medicare Benefit. The room and board then must be paid by the patient or other insurance such as Medicaid or a long-term care plan.

What Doesn't the Medicare Hospice Benefit Cover?

When you choose hospice care, you've decided that you no longer want care to cure your terminal condition and/or your doctor has determined that efforts to cure your condition aren't working. Medicare won't cover any of these once you choose hospice care:

- Treatment intended to cure your terminal condition. Talk with your doctor if you're thinking about getting treatment to cure your condition. As a hospice patient, you always have the right to stop hospice care at any time.
- Prescription or experimental drugs to cure your condition (rather than for symptom control or pain relief).
- Care from any hospice provider that wasn't set up by the hospice team. You must get hospice care from the hospice provider you chose. All care that you get for your terminal condition must be given by or arranged by the hospice team. You can't get the same type of hospice care from a different provider, unless you change your hospice provider. However, you can still see your current attending medical professional who helps supervise your hospice care.






Transitions
HospiceCare
accepts patients
regardless of their
ability to pay.

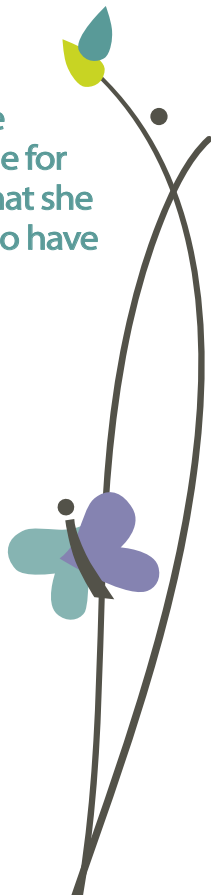
- Room and board. Medicare doesn't cover room and board if you get hospice care in your home or if you live in a nursing home or a hospice inpatient facility. However, if the hospice team determines that you need short-term inpatient or respite care services that they arrange, Medicare will cover your stay in the facility.
- Care in an emergency room, inpatient facility care, or ambulance transportation, unless it's either arranged by your hospice team or is unrelated to your terminal condition.

Note: Contact your hospice team before you get any of these services or you might have to pay the entire cost.

By choosing to use the Hospice Medicare Benefit, the patient puts on "hold" regular Medicare coverage for anything related to the hospice terminal diagnosis. The patient has the right to change hospice providers or stop hospice services at any time.

 **With hospice, Mom was able to be as independent as possible for as long as possible. That was what she wanted and we are so pleased to have been able to see that through.**

– child of patient



Choose care and
comfort for life's
changing needs.

William M. Dunlap Center for Caring ("Hospice Home")

Transitions HospiceCare also offers around-the-clock care at our beautiful and homelike William M. Dunlap Center for Caring (Hospice Home). Here, we offer three levels of care:

General Inpatient Care – provided for pain control or acute symptom management. Care is provided as long as symptoms are very difficult to manage. Usually for very short durations, usually less than one week, and determined by Medicare regulations.

Short-Stay Routine and Respite Care – potential eligibility for short-stay routine and respite care is determined by the team of the hospice patient, in coordination with the patient and their family/legal representative.

If you feel you need to use the Hospice Home, our staff will help you understand more about the qualifications for admission.



Transitions
LifeCare®

Transitions HospiceCare is a division of Transitions LifeCare. Transitions LifeCare provides a variety of expert care and support services in Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Orange, and Wake counties.

If you are interested in knowing more about Transitions HospiceCare or other Transitions LifeCare services, we will gladly send a representative to meet with you and your family to discuss options. These visits come at no cost to you. They are done as part of our mission to help educate our community about options for care.

It's your family. It's your life. It's your choice.

Insist on the encompassing expertise and experience of Transitions LifeCare.

Contact us anytime.
919.828.0890 (888.900.3959)
transitionslifecare.org



It takes a
community
to provide a
full circle of care.



Make a donation. Transitions LifeCare is a 501(c)(3) non-profit committed to serving all patients regardless of their ability to pay. We rely on the generous support of our community. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us include all those in need within our circle of care. To learn more about ways you can give, visit transitionslifecare.org/donate.



Become a volunteer. We count on people like you giving their time and hearts to serve our patients and families and office needs. Our volunteers tell us they find their experiences to be very rewarding. To discover a variety of ways you can volunteer, visit transitionslifecare.org/volunteer.



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