

Choosing a Hospice

Just as with hospitals, physicians, and other professional services, all hospices are not the same. Different hospices have different levels of expertise, philosophies of care, and approaches to supporting patients and families. Patients and families often don't know how to go about learning more about hospice - or how to find the hospice that is right for them.

Here is a checklist of questions every family should ask as they're considering which hospice might be able to provide the kind of service and support they deserve:

- How do I go about obtaining hospice services? How do I qualify?
- What kind of services can I expect?
- Where will you provide these services?
- Can I continue to see and work with my personal physician?
- What role will my family play in my care plan? What if I have no family?
- What happens if I need to go to the hospital? Or need additional treatment or medications?
- How much control and choice will I have over my care?
- What kind of support will be available to my family?
- What kind of services are available after-hours? How managed?
- Can I continue to receive other medical care and services?

Other Resources:

- VistaCare offers a simple "Is Hospice the Answer?" quiz that will provide a quick assessment of whether hospice might be the answer for you or your loved one. Visit www.VistaCare.com anytime.
- The Caring Connections website features many resources for learning about hospice services, advance care planning, and other issues for those facing a terminal illness.

Names and phone/e-mail information for individuals/groups you might want to contact for recommendations or with questions:

Name:	Phone/e-mail:
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

NOTES:

1-866-VISTACARE (847-8222)
www.VistaCare.com

