

Hospice and Palliative Care Comparison

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<http://www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3469>

Question	Palliative Care	Hospice Care
Who can receive this care?	Anyone with a serious illness, regardless of life expectancy, can receive palliative care	Someone with an illness with a life expectancy measured in months not years
Can I continue to receive treatments to cure my illness?	You may receive palliative care and curative care at the same time	Treatments and medicines aimed at relieving symptoms are provided by hospice
Does Medicare pay?	Some treatments and medications may be covered	Medicare pays all charges related to hospice
Does Medicaid pay?	Some treatments and medications may be covered	In 47 states, Medicaid pays all charges related to hospice
Does private insurance pay?	Some treatments and medications may be covered	Most insurance plans have a hospice benefit
Is this a package deal?	No, there is no 'palliative care' package, the services are flexible and based on the patient's needs	Medicare and Medicaid hospice benefits are package deals
How long can I receive care?	This will depend upon your care needs, and the coverage you have through Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance	As long as you meet the hospice's criteria of an illness with a life expectancy of months not years
What organization provides these services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals • Hospices • Nursing Facilities • Health Care Clinics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospice organizations • Hospice programs based out of a hospital • Other health care organizations
Where are services provided?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home • Assisted living facility • Nursing facility • Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually, wherever the patient resides, in their home, assisted living facility, nursing facility, or hospital. • Some hospices have facilities where people can live, like a hospice residence, or receive care for short-term reasons, such as acute pain or symptom management.
Who provides these services?	It varies. However usually there is a team including doctors, nurses, social workers and chaplains, similar to the hospice team.	A team – doctor, nurse, social worker, chaplain, volunteer, home health aide and others.
Do they offer expert end-of-life care?	This varies, be sure to ask	Yes, staff are experts in end-of-life care