

# PALLIATIVE VS HOSPICE

UNDERSTANDING THE RIGHT CARE  
AT THE RIGHT TIME

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Both palliative and hospice care help people with serious illness feel more comfortable and supported, though they serve different needs, depending on where someone is in their care journey.



### PALLIATIVE

Palliative care provides expertise for those living with a serious or chronic illness by assisting with managing symptoms and planning for the future. It works alongside your other specialists and care team to support you during each stage of illness and treatment.

Alongside curative treatment.

- Manages pain and symptoms
- Care planning and guidance
- Connects to helpful resources
- Coordinates with specialists and care team
- Office hours

Provided in any care setting.

- Home or group home
- Assisted living
- Nursing facility
- Hospital or clinic

Works in collaboration with your primary doctor and specialists to support your care.

- Physicians
- Nurse practitioners & RNs
- Social workers
- Chaplains

- Usually covered under Medicare Part B and Medicaid (some limits)
- Private insurance is often included; coverage varies by plan
- Some medications or services may have co-pays



WHEN IT'S  
OFFERED



TREATMENT  
APPROACH



LOCATION  
OF CARE



TEAM  
INVOLVED



COST &  
COVERAGE



### HOSPICE

Hospice care supports people in the final stage of a serious illness. It begins when treatment is no longer desired or effective and focuses fully on comfort. To qualify, a doctor must determine a life expectancy of six months or less for the patient to be eligible.

Comfort and quality of life.

- Some treatment may continue
- Manages pain and symptoms
- 24/7 support and visits for patient and family
- Emotional and spiritual care
- Alternative symptom management therapies

Provided in any care settings.

- Home or group home
- Hospice facility
- Assisted living or nursing facility
- Hospital (inpatient only)

Alongside your primary care physician, an interdisciplinary team provides whole-person support for the patient and caregivers.

- Physicians & nurses
- Social workers & chaplains
- Hospice aides & volunteers
- Therapists as needed

- Fully covered under Medicare Part A and most Medicaid plans
- Most private insurance plans have hospice benefits that cover most related costs
- Some non-terminal-related items may not be covered

## FACTS & FIGURES

1.7  
MILLION

Medicare beneficiaries receive hospice care each year.



93%



of Medicare spending goes toward people with four or more chronic conditions, which is typical for patients receiving palliative care.



Palliative care can begin at any stage of a serious illness.



50%

of patients enrolled in hospice are in care 18 days or less.



Both services can reduce emergency visits and hospital stays.



Families report better emotional support and lower stress when these services are used.



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