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Hospice Care

Hospice care provides medical services, emotional support, and spiritual resources for people who are in the last stages of a life-limiting illness. Hospice care also helps family members manage the practical details and emotional challenges of caring for a dying loved one. The goal of hospice treatment is to keep the patient comfortable and improve their quality of life while they are dying. Hospice services are not intended to speed up or prolong the dying process, but focus instead on relieving pain and other symptoms. Hospice caregivers are concerned with enhancing the quality of remaining life by keeping the patient as alert and comfortable as possible in a familiar environment.

Hospice patients are cared for by a team of physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, hospice-certified nursing assistants, clergy, therapists, and volunteers. Each member of the hospice team provides assistance based on their area of expertise.

Relief from Pain

Life-limiting illnesses are characterized by pain and symptoms. Generally, pain is defined as an unpleasant sensory experience and serves as a warning that something in the body needs attention. Excellent methods of pain treatment are available to manage virtually all types of pain.

Hospice care aims to improve the patient's quality of life for whatever time is left. As experts in providing palliative care — pain control and symptom management — hospice providers utilize a variety of approaches, including medicine and other therapies, to help the patient attain the highest level of comfort. Hospice nurses and doctors remain current on the latest medications, devices, and therapies that offer the patient relief from their pain and symptoms.

The approach that hospice providers take for managing pain will be based primarily on how the patient describes their pain. This log is designed to help caregivers keep track of the hospice patient's pain and symptoms so that appropriate care may be delivered.

Pain and Symptom Tracking

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Notes

Pain and symptom tracking is critical during hospice treatment, as it allows your physician and other caregivers to make better informed decisions regarding your care.