

Understanding Your Care Options

When you or loved one is diagnosed with serious illness, deciding what to do next is never easy. You have so many questions, but are not sure what you and your family need to know — or even what all the questions should be. Critical information that can help is an understanding of the difference between hospice and palliative medicine. Knowing your choices and options can help relieve anxiety and begin a roadmap for making informed decisions about your plan of care.



	Hospice	Palliative Medicine
Who can receive care?	Individuals who have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness that is progressing in spite of curative treatments and have a certified a prognosis of six months or less. This applies to individuals of all ages with any type of illness, including, but not limited to, ALS, cancer, Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), kidney disease, lung disease, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's, Stroke and Alzheimer's/Dementia.	Individuals with pain or other symptoms such as nausea, loss of appetite, difficulty sleeping, shortness of breath, fatigue and/or anxiety resulting from a serious illness.
What services are provided?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical team available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. • An individualized plan of care. • Skilled nursing care for pain control and symptom management, as well as coordination of care, services and support. • Assistance with activities of daily living and personal care needs. • Teaching and guidance for caregivers. • Medications, supplies and equipment. • Therapies such as physical, occupational, speech and respiratory, when medically indicated. • Assistance with personal and community resource needs offered by our licensed social workers. • Ongoing emotional support for you and your family. • Spiritual support and guidance by our care team and chaplains. • Life enriching services, such as music, art, Reiki and compassionate touch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative service provided by board-certified palliative doctors working with a team of advanced practice nurses and licensed clinical social workers specializing in palliative care. • Assessment of medications and treatments to reduce symptoms and improve quality of life. • Expert symptom management. • Coordinate communications and medications with your doctor. • Discuss goals of care. • 24/7 access to clinical team via telephone. • Provide assistance with personal and community resource needs and emotional support.
How are services paid for?	Medicare (Part A) Illinois Medicaid Most private insurance Note, hospice does not require a co-pay	Medicare (Part B) Illinois Medicaid Most private insurance Standard co-pays & deductibles apply
Will Medicare, Medicaid and/or private insurance pay for home health?	No, they will not cover home health at the same time you are receiving hospice care.	Yes, they will cover home health care while you are receiving palliative services. The palliative team works closely with home health care to meet your needs.
Can I have a "private duty" caregiver?	Yes	Yes