

Supplies You May Need During Hospice Care

What is happening

As illness progresses, having the right supplies available can:

- Improve comfort
- Make caregiving easier
- Reduce stress during urgent situations

Many helpful supplies may be provided by the hospice team.

Cleaning and hygiene supplies

Helpful items may include:

- Adult diapers or protective briefs
 - Styles with side flaps are often easier to change
- Baby wipes or disposable washcloths
- Disposable non-latex gloves
- Hand sanitizer
- Large trash can with disposable liners

These supplies can help with:

- Skin care
- Hygiene
- Infection prevention
- Comfort and cleanliness

Medication supplies

Helpful items may include:

- Pill organizer
- Pen and paper for tracking medication times and symptoms

Keeping a medication record can help:

- Avoid missed doses
- Reduce confusion
- Improve communication with the hospice team

Comfort items

Comfort-focused items may include:

- Fan (large room fan or bedside fan)
- Bedside heater if the room feels cold
- Easy-to-hold cups with lids or straws
- Bedside table that is easy to reach
- Music player or television
- Family photographs or meaningful personal items

A calm and familiar environment can improve comfort and reduce anxiety.

Important oxygen safety reminder

If oxygen is being used:

- Use fans and heaters safely
- Follow all oxygen safety instructions provided by the hospice team

Supplies for caregivers and visitors

Helpful items may include:

- Air freshener
- Comfortable chair for visitors or overnight caregiving

Caregiver comfort is also important during hospice care.

What the hospice team can help with

The hospice team can:

- Recommend needed supplies
- Provide many medical and comfort items
- Help teach safe use of equipment and supplies

Ask the hospice team if you are unsure what may help most.

When to call hospice

- Supplies are running low
- Equipment is not working properly
- You are unsure how to use a supply safely
- Additional support or equipment may be needed