

## What to expect from **HOSPICE**

It is important to know what your team can and cannot provide to you and your loved one



There is always a Hospice Nurse and a physician on call 24/7



The Hospice Team will provide the number to call for any questions, concerns and emergencies



Calls should be made if the question cannot wait until the next scheduled visit

## The Hospice Team consists of a number of professionals with different skills and responsibilities

- > **Physician** - Responsible for certifying admission for a terminal illness, reviewing care and medications, writing prescriptions and visiting if needed
- > **Nurses** - Will visit the first day and usually once a week to review medications, ask about and help with control of symptoms, and address any concerns
- > **LVNs/CNAs** - Will visit during the week, usually 2-3 times/week, can help with bathing, skin care, supplies, and address any concerns

- **Social Workers/Chaplains** - Helps with spiritual and emotional support, and helps navigate the challenges of end-of-life care

## What Hospice is **NOT**

- 24 hour care
- **Daily Care** - Visits are usually not daily. The frequency will vary depending on need
- You should always feel free to discuss your needs and concerns with the Hospice Team

## It is the responsibility of your hospice to provide everything that is needed for comfort and care:

- All medications for comfort and that are related to the terminal illness if still indicated for comfort
- **Durable medical equipment** - Hospital bed, equipment to help with transfer
- Oxygen tank and all supplies
- Bedside commode, Diapers, Pads
- The professionals and resources you need to be supported in this time of need

## It is **not** the responsibility of the Hospice Team to provide

- Medications previously prescribed for illnesses/diseases that are no longer needed to help with the goal of comfort
- Help with daily needs of eating, change of position, toileting
- During a visit, the Hospice Team may clean/bathe as needed. Usually this is no more than 3 times per week

- **The primary focus of your Hospice Team is to maximize comfort and minimize suffering**
- **The medications provided at time of the first visit are vital for achieving this goal**

- Use your Hospice Team to help fully understand how and when to give these medications