

Caregiver Resources

Hospice Care - Caregiver Sheet

Caregiving throughout the cycle of life can be supported.



What is VA Hospice Care?

VA Hospice Care is comfort care provided to the Veteran you provide care for, you, the caregiver, and your family if the Veteran has a terminal condition, with less than six months to live, and is no longer seeking treatment that focuses on the cure. Hospice care can be provided at home or in an inpatient setting.

Is the Veteran I provide care for eligible for hospice care? Since hospice care is part of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Standard Medical Benefits Package, all *enrolled Veterans* are eligible **if they meet the clinical need for the service as determined by a VA physician**. There are no copays for hospice care, whether it is provided by VA or an organization with a VA contract.

What services can the Veteran I provide care for receive? Hospice care provides services that relieve suffering and help control symptoms in a way that respects the Veteran's personal, cultural, and religious beliefs and practices. Hospice care also provides respite care at home hospice agencies for caregivers and bereavement support to the family. You and your family will meet with a care team to develop a plan of care together that meets your medical, social, spiritual, and psychological needs.

How do I help the Veteran decide if hospice care is right for them? You can use a [Veteran Decision Aid for Care at Home or in the Community](#) to help you figure out the home care services or long-term care services that may best meet the Veteran's current or future needs.

Ask your social worker for resources or download copies from the [Making Decisions and Advance Care Planning](#) section at va.gov/geriatrics

Talk with your VA social worker or the Veteran's medical care provider or team about hospice care.

