



## Myths and Facts about Hospice Care

MYTH	vs.	FACT
Hospice care is only for cancer patients.		Less than half of our patients have a diagnosis of cancer. Our end-of-life care includes patients with heart and lung disease, Alzheimer's/dementia, stroke and many other diagnoses.
Hospice care hastens death.		Hospice care neither prolongs life nor hastens death. In fact, several studies show that patients who receive hospice care actually live longer than those who don't use hospice care.
Using hospice care means giving up.		Hospice care offers hope for freedom from the fears of isolation, abandonment, loneliness, loss of control and physical pain; and hope that the family will be nurtured and supported.
Hospice means you have to stop all prior medications.		Hospice does not require anyone to stop medications. We do a thorough review of medications to ensure they are still benefiting you and are NOT harmful to you in this stage of life.
Hospice care is only for the last two weeks of life.		Hospice care is available to all patients with a life expectancy of six months or less.
Hospice care is expensive.		Medicare, Medicaid, and many insurance plans cover 100% of charges for hospice services.
Hospice care means I have to give up my doctors & routine care.		Hospice encourages you to stay involved with other physicians and hospice is ONLY responsible for care related to the terminal disease.
Only a physician can refer a patient for hospice care.		Anyone – patients, loved ones or others involved in providing care – can make the first contact with Hosparus. We will then follow up with the patient's physician to determine eligibility.



## Myths and Facts about Palliative Care

MYTH	vs.	FACT
Palliative care is the same as hospice.		Unlike hospice care, which is limited to the last 6 months of life, palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage of a serious illness. It can be provided along with treatment intended to cure your illness.
If you accept palliative care, you must stop other treatments.		Your treatment choices are up to you. You can receive palliative care at the same time as treatment meant to cure you.
Electing palliative care means you are giving up.		Palliative care will help you carry on with daily life. It will help manage symptoms and side-effects that may occur while receiving treatment. And it will help you to match your goals to your treatment choices.
Palliative care shortens life expectancy.		Recent evidence now indicates that providing palliative care alongside standard care not only improves many people's quality of life, but also extends their lives. This appears to be true particularly when the palliative care is added early in the illness.
If I elect palliative care, I can no longer see my regular doctor		The palliative care team provides an extra layer of support and works in partnership with your primary doctor.
Palliative care is only for adults.		Hosparus Health provides palliative care to patients of all ages, from infants to seniors.
Only a physician can refer a patient for palliative care.		Anyone – patients, loved ones or others involved in providing care – can make the first contact with Hosparus. We will then follow up with the patient's physician to determine eligibility