Understanding Hospice Medications and Equipment

Use this to keep track of the medicines and equipment the hospice provides, what each one is for, and the questions to ask the nurse.

Under Medicare, hospice covers medicines, supplies and equipment for pain and symptoms related to the illness. You may pay up to $5 for each of those prescriptions. Medicines for unrelated conditions may be covered another way, such as a drug plan; ask the hospice.

> **The nurse's instructions come first**
> Give medicines only the way the hospice nurse has shown you and written down. If an instruction is unclear, or you're not comfortable giving a medicine, call the hospice. The team can explain again or change the plan.

Medicines in the home

Fill this in with the nurse. Include any comfort kit, which some hospices leave for sudden symptoms.

Medicine	What it's for	How and when (as the nurse explained)	Call first?

Questions about medicines

- ☐ Which of her earlier medicines continue, and which stop? Who makes that decision?

© 2026 Mark Duda. Print and copy for your own family's use. Not medical advice.

- [ ] How are medicines delivered, and how do we ask for a refill?
- [ ] Where and how should each one be stored?
- [ ] What should we watch for after a dose, and when should we call?
- [ ] How should we keep track of doses given? (Use the dose log in this checklist.)
- [ ] How should unused medicines be disposed of? The hospice must explain its policy for the safe use and disposal of controlled medicines.

Equipment

Item	Supplier and phone	Delivered	Notes (how it works, who to call)
Hospital bed and mattress			
Over-bed table			
Wheelchair or walker			
Bedside commode			
Oxygen concentrator			
Oxygen tanks			
Other			
Other			

> **Equipment safety**
> Don’t change the oxygen setting unless the hospice tells you to. Ask the nurse or equipment company to show you how to use and clean each item, and what to do if something stops working.

© 2026 Mark Duda. Print and copy for your own family’s use. Not medical advice.

Dose log

Writing down each dose helps the nurse adjust the plan and keeps everyone who helps on the same page.

Date and time	Medicine and amount	Why it was given	How it helped	Initials

The hospice team is there for you
Your hospice team manages your loved one's medical care, day and night. This checklist helps your family prepare, ask good questions and keep track. Call the hospice with any question about symptoms, medicines or equipment.

The other checklists in this set: Preparing for the First Hospice Visit · Questions to Ask the Hospice Team · Hospice Emergency Contacts and Important Numbers · Preparing the Home for Hospice Care · Understanding Hospice Medications and Equipment. All at AgingAtHomeSupport.com/hospice-checklists/

To keep every name, number, medicine and daily note together, the When Hospice Comes Home workbook (18 fill-in pages) is at AgingAtHomeSupport.com/when-hospice-comes-home-workbook/

© 2026 Mark Duda. Print and copy for your own family's use. Not medical advice.