Preparing for the First Hospice Visit

Use this before the hospice admission visit: what to have ready, who should be there, what to think about ahead of time, and what to confirm before the nurse leaves.

Once hospice care is chosen, a hospice registered nurse usually comes to the home within 48 hours, and often sooner. The visit can take a couple of hours. You don't need to have everything ready; the nurse will help with what's missing.

Hospice: _____ **Phone:** _____

Visit date and time: _____ **Nurse's name:** _____

Have these ready

- ☐ Medicare card and any other insurance or Medicaid cards
- ☐ Photo ID
- ☐ Every medicine bottle in the house, in one bag or box
- ☐ A list of doctors and their phone numbers
- ☐ Advance directive or living will, if there is one
- ☐ Health care proxy or power of attorney papers
- ☐ POLST or out-of-hospital DNR form, if there is one
- ☐ Recent hospital or doctor papers

Who should be there

- ☐ Your loved one, if they are able and want to be
- ☐ The person named to make health decisions, if there is one
- ☐ The main caregiver, and anyone who will share nights or shifts

Think about these ahead of time

Jot a few words. There are no right answers, and it is fine to say "we don't know yet."

a. **What matters most to your loved one right now? What do they want to avoid?**

_____

_____

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b. Which symptoms or worries are bothering them, or you, the most?

c. What can the family do, and what can't it do? Who can be here, and when?

d. Would spiritual support, a chaplain or a faith community help?

Before the nurse leaves

- ☐ The hospice's 24-hour number is written down and posted by the phone.
- ☐ We know when the next visits are, and who is coming.
- ☐ We know what medicines, supplies and equipment are coming, and when.
- ☐ We know which situations mean we should call the hospice right away.
- ☐ We understand that we call the hospice first, not 911, when something changes.
- ☐ We have a copy of what we signed.

Notes from the visit

> **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/

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