Preparing the Home for Hospice Care

Use this to set up a safe, comfortable room, organize supplies and plan the household, so the hospice team and your family can focus on care.

Ask the hospice nurse to walk through the space with you. They see many homes and can suggest what will make care easier and safer.

Choosing the room

- [ ] Where does your loved one want to be? A room near family life, or somewhere quiet?
- [ ] Close to a bathroom, or room for a bedside commode
- [ ] Space to walk on both sides of a hospital bed, and to turn a wheelchair
- [ ] A doorway wide enough for the bed and equipment to come in
- [ ] Light from a window, and a lamp that can be dimmed at night
- [ ] A phone or call bell within reach

Bed and equipment

- [ ] Agree with the hospice where the hospital bed will go before it is delivered.
- [ ] Move furniture and rugs to make clear paths.
- [ ] Ask the nurse or equipment company to show you how the bed, rails and brakes work.
- [ ] If oxygen is used: no smoking, candles or open flames; keep tubing out of walkways; follow the supplier's instructions.
- [ ] Keep the equipment company's phone number on the emergency sheet (checklist 3).

A supply station

A small table or shelf near the bed keeps everything in one place. The nurse will tell you what to stock.

- [ ] Gloves
- [ ] Wipes and washcloths
- [ ] Bed pads
- [ ] Briefs or incontinence products
- [ ] Mouth care supplies
- [ ] Lotion and lip balm
- [ ] Trash bags
- [ ] Extra sheets and pillows
- [ ] A notebook and pen for visit notes

- [ ] Store medicines where the nurse tells you, out of reach of children and visitors. Some families use a lockbox.

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

Comfort

- ☐ Familiar things: photos, a favorite blanket, music they love
- ☐ A chair for visitors at the bedside
- ☐ Control of noise, light and temperature
- ☐ A plan for visitors: how many, how long, and who decides

The household plan

Job	Who	Notes
Being home for hospice visits		
Nights and overnight shifts		
Meals and groceries		
Answering calls and messages, updating family		
Pets, mail and bills		
Rest for the main caregiver		

> **You don’t have to do this alone**
> Ask the hospice social worker about help with caregiving, and about respite care: Medicare’s hospice benefit can cover a short inpatient stay, up to five days at a time, so the caregiver can rest.

Notes

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

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.