Questions to Ask the Hospice Team

Questions for after you've chosen a hospice, about visits, nights, comfort, medicines, your family's role and support. Write the answers in the space below each one.

Ask these at the first visit or over the first week. Each hospice works a little differently, so write down how yours does it. Choosing between hospices? Our guide to choosing a hospice has a separate list for that.

Visits and the team

1. **Who is our nurse case manager, and how often will the nurse, aide, social worker and chaplain visit?**

2. **Who do we call to change or add a visit?**

Nights, weekends and emergencies

3. **Who answers when we call at night? How soon can a nurse come to the house if we need one?**

4. **When should we call you instead of 911? Is there ever a time to call 911?**

Comfort

5. **What changes should we expect, and which ones should we tell you about right away?**

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6. **If pain, breathing or restlessness gets worse, how quickly can the plan or the medicines change?**

7. **If symptoms can't be managed at home, can a nurse stay for longer periods here (continuous home care), or can care move to an inpatient setting?**

Medicines, supplies and equipment

8. **Which medicines will hospice cover? Which of her current medicines will continue or stop, and who decides?**

9. **What is in the comfort kit, if you use one, and when should we call before using it?**

10. **How do refills, supplies and equipment repairs work?**

Our family's role

11. **What do you expect the family to do between visits? Will you show us how and write it down?**

12. **What should we do if we feel we can't manage something? Who do we tell?**

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Support

13. **How does respite care work if the caregiver needs a break? Medicare covers short inpatient respite stays of up to five days at a time.**

14. **What support is there for the family, now and after the death? Are volunteers available?**

15. **When death comes, who do we call first, and what happens next?**

> **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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