

10 Things to Know

Exploring the Option of Hospice Care



1 **Hospice is a comfort approach**

Hospice care focuses on physical, spiritual, and emotional comfort for people facing end of life.



6 **Timing matters**

Early hospice intervention leads to better symptom management and greater quality of life. Your ALS care team can help you decide if or when it might be right for you.



2 **There is a specialized team to support you**

The hospice team includes a nurse, home care aide, a social worker, a chaplain, a consulting physician, and others as needed.



7 **Hospice care is covered by insurance**

Coverage includes care coordination and home visits, medications for symptom management and medical equipment related to comfort.



3 **Hospice care does not mean giving up**

The focus of care changes from managing ALS to holistic care for you, driven by your desires as you and your loved ones prepare for end of life.



8 **There are some insurance limitations**

Rehabilitative equipment and curative treatments are among the care options not covered under the hospice benefit.



4 **Most hospice care is provided at home**

Hospice care can be provided anywhere you call home. Daily care is provided by family and friends unless you are in a care facility.



9 **Hospice does not hasten death**

Hospice care emphasizes the quality of your life and the lives of loved ones, rather than treatment options to prolong life.



5 **You maintain control**

You determine your care goals. You have the right to revoke hospice if you choose.



10 **Hospice supports the entire family**

Bereavement support is available to family members for over a year following the death of their loved one.