



Choosing the Right Hospice Program: An Interactive Checklist

Make your search for the right hospice care program easier by using this checklist to explore different programs. Think about which items are more important to you and which items are less useful.

For each program you consider, you can have this checklist in front of you when you ask questions of the hospice program staff. Take notes and evaluate if the program lines up with what you want.

Name of Hospice Care Program:			
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Phone number:			

Consider what services you want. What services are provided?

<input type="checkbox"/> Doctors who can make home visits, hospital visits, or nursing home visits
<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual or religious counseling
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical, Occupational, Respiratory therapists
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Workers
<input type="checkbox"/> Respite services if your primary caregiver needs a break
<input type="checkbox"/> Shopping and errands
<input type="checkbox"/> Home health aides
<input type="checkbox"/> Meal preparation and nutrition planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Household chores and cleaning
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical supplies, equipment, and prescription medications
<input type="checkbox"/> Special services or interpreters needed for you culture, ethnicity, or lifestyle

Consider where the services are provided:

<input type="checkbox"/> In your house
<input type="checkbox"/> In an inpatient hospice unit
<input type="checkbox"/> In a hospital or nursing home where you are already a patient

What is the plan of care?

Does the hospice program consult with you and your family to create a care plan?

The care plan should be specific, outlining who will perform which duties and how often. Make sure the plan includes the name and phone number of the supervisor. Good programs have care plans that include health professions who will do the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Communicate with other health professionals
<input type="checkbox"/> Talk comfortably with you and your family in your home
<input type="checkbox"/> Record and make copies of the care plan for everyone involved in your care

Consider who will be providing care:

- Hospice staff
- Family members
- Your doctor

Certification and Licensing:

Check to see if the plan is:

- State-licensed
- Medicare certified
- Accredited by professional organizations including:
 - Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
 - Accreditation Commission for Home Care, Inc.
 - Community Health Accreditation Program

Are the hospice nurses and doctors certified?

- Are the nurses certified by the Hospice Nurses Association?
- Are the doctors certified by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine?

Insurance and Medicare/Medicaid:

Is the program compatible with your:

- Private Health Insurance plan
- Medicare benefits
- Medicaid

How much of the costs are covered by insurance and how much will you have to cover out of pocket?

Contacts for Further Information:

Write the names of doctors who refer patients to the program.

Talk with families who have used the program and ask about their experience. Take notes below.

After the visit:

- Are all the services you want provided by the program?

