

HOME AND HOSPICE CARE

HOME HEALTH CARE

Over the past several years the concept of professional medical treatment in the home has evolved to a very sophisticated level. After an operation or serious illness hospital quality treatment can be continued in the comfort of the home, which is usually a far more relaxing environment than a busy and crowded hospital. Under Home Health Care, professional nurses, therapists, social services personnel and others can come to the home in order to run tests, do counseling, provide therapy and perform medical treatments. They can offer dietary and financial counseling, help with medications, provide medical procedures and equipment for in home treatments. They can also supply legal documents, do home safety inspection, and make available important information and resources. For people who meet the criteria for being homebound and have a reasonable and necessary need for skilled health care services, these services are typically covered by Medicare at 80% of cost, and/or by private health insurance.

The office has a list of providers for these services if you would like some guidance.

HOSPICE

Hospice is not a place, but concept of care for those with life threatening or life limiting illnesses. Hospice can provide an improvement in comfort, care and medical treatment. In addition, Hospice can relieve a caregiver from the physical and emotion stress of bathing, cleaning and trying to provide for someone struggling with life. Hospice helps you prepare mentally and spiritually to face the inevitable challenges ahead. Hospice affirms life and neither hastens nor postpones the end. Its services focus on enhancing a patient's comfort and overall quality of life rather than providing "curative care," It can be provided in the patient's home, nursing home, or even hospital. A patient's informed consent is needed for admission to hospice. Friends and family members still provide a lot of the hands on and loving care for persons on Hospice.

Hospice simply provides an interdisciplinary health care team that includes medical personnel, social service personnel, counselors and trained volunteers.

HOSPICE SERVICES

- Medication, equipment and supplies
- Counseling (financial, spiritual, emotional)
- Therapy (physical, speech, occupational)
- Personal care (bathing, feeding, dressing, bed linens)
- Nursing Care
- Dietary planning
- Social service support
- Bereavement care and support

HOSPICE PROFESSIONALS

- Patient's attending physician
- Hospice physician
- Registered nurses
- Medical social worker
- Counselors (dietary, bereavement)
- Home health aides
- Chaplin
- Therapists

ADMISSION CRITERIA - eligibility is based on a physician's certification that the patient has a terminal condition with a prognosis of approximately six months.

FUNDING - Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance carriers cover hospice services many times up to 100%. The hospice program can evaluate the funding availability for the patient/beneficiary.

The office has a list of providers for these services if you would like some direction, or ask your physician or call a hospice agency in your area for more information. Please don't become exhausted and at wits end before you ask for help. Explore your options.