

Hospice in a Nursing Home: Questions Every Family Should Ask

A Free Printable Checklist for Families

Prepared by Long-Term Care Finder

Before choosing hospice services, ask these important questions to help you understand the care plan, Medicare coverage, and what to expect.

Choosing a Hospice Provider

- ☐ Why is hospice being recommended at this time?
- ☐ Does my loved one qualify for hospice under Medicare guidelines?
- ☐ Which Medicare-certified hospice providers are available?
- ☐ Can we choose our own hospice provider?
- ☐ How quickly can hospice services begin?

Understanding the Care Plan

- ☐ What services will the hospice team provide?
- ☐ What care will continue to be provided by the nursing home?
- ☐ How often will hospice nurses visit?
- ☐ Will a hospice physician be involved in my loved one's care?
- ☐ How will the nursing home and hospice team communicate with one another?
- ☐ Who will be my family's primary point of contact if we have questions?

Medications, Equipment & Medical Care

- ☐ Which medications will hospice provide?
- ☐ Which medications will continue to be managed by the nursing home?
- ☐ What medical equipment and supplies are included?
- ☐ Who should we contact after hours if symptoms worsen?
- ☐ How are pain and other symptoms managed?

Medicare & Costs

- ☐ What hospice services are covered by Medicare?
- ☐ Will any medications or treatments change after hospice begins?
- ☐ Who is responsible for paying nursing home room and board?
- ☐ Will there be any out-of-pocket expenses?
- ☐ Does Medicaid or long-term care insurance help cover any remaining costs?

Emotional & Family Support

- ☐ What emotional support is available for my loved one?
- ☐ Are chaplain or spiritual care services available?
- ☐ What education will our family receive about what to expect?
- ☐ Is grief and bereavement counseling available after my loved one's passing?

If My Loved One's Condition Changes

- ☐ Can hospice services be discontinued if my loved one's condition improves?
- ☐ What happens if my loved one needs hospitalization?
- ☐ Who should we contact if we have concerns about the care plan?
- ☐ How often will the hospice team review and update the care plan?

Notes _____

Key Reminder: Hospice care **does not replace** nursing home care. Instead, the hospice team works alongside the nursing home's staff to provide specialized comfort-focused care, pain and symptom management, emotional and spiritual support, and guidance for families during the end-of-life journey.

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