Palliative Care & Hospice Conversation Guide

Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Team

Use this guide when talking with your loved one's doctor, palliative care team, or hospice provider. Write down the answers and any additional questions that come up so you can review the information with your family later.

Understanding Our Options

- Would palliative care be appropriate for my loved one now?
- What symptoms or concerns could palliative care help with?
- Can treatment for the underlying illness continue?
- Does my loved one currently meet hospice eligibility requirements?
- If not, what changes might indicate that hospice should be reconsidered?

Understanding Hospice Care

- What would change if my loved one enrolled in hospice?
- Which treatments and medications could continue?
- Where could hospice care be provided?
- How often would hospice staff visit?
- Who provides day-to-day care when hospice staff are not present?
- Who do we call if symptoms suddenly become worse?

Understanding Costs and Coverage

- What will Medicare or our insurance cover?
- Are there copayments or other out-of-pocket costs?
- If my loved one lives in a care community, who pays for room and board?
- Are medications, supplies, and medical equipment covered?

Making the Decision

- What are the benefits of starting hospice now?
- Are there reasons to wait?
- What should we expect over the coming weeks or months?
- Can my loved one leave hospice if their wishes or circumstances change?
- Who should we contact if we have more questions?

Notes:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

For educational purposes only. This guide is not a substitute for medical, legal, or insurance advice. Eligibility, coverage, and care needs vary by individual.