



Facts about Hospice in Long Term Care Center

Hospice is a special type of care for people who are facing serious illness and who have a limited life expectancy. Hospice patients can receive services in the environment they choose, whether it is their own home, home of a family member, senior apartments, or a long-term care or assisted living facility.

Often there are questions about the benefits of hospice when the long-term care team is already providing for the patient's needs. Hospice services can enhance the care of the patient and family and support the long term care staff. Some of the benefits to the LTC center include:

- **Expert symptom assessment and management** – includes nursing visits, medical director consultation, and an interdisciplinary approach to challenging physical, emotional, and spiritual issues.
- **Extra home health aide services for bathing, skin care, and hair care.** For example, if a resident requests a shower four times a week and standard care at the long term care center is twice weekly, hospice can provide the additional two showers.
- **Social work and spiritual counselors to support patients, families, and the nursing home staff** through grief and loss issues faced at the end of life and for one year after the patient dies.
- **24-hour on-call nursing support to address urgent issues and needs.** If the patient's symptoms are not managed, the hospice nurse will make a visit and work collaboratively with the facility staff to address the issues.
- **Emergency medication set-up.** The hospice nurse will arrange for emergency medications to be on site in the event the patient has a sudden crisis such as increased pain, shortness of breath, anxiety, fever and nausea or vomiting.
- **Volunteers trained to work with dying patients** – listening, reading, talking and simply being present.
- **Educational in-services to the assisted living/CBRF staff** on topics such as symptom management, medications used at end of life, advance directives, and grief and loss.

Home Health United –Hospice is a local, not-for-profit agency that has been serving terminally ill patients in central Wisconsin since 1989. We are dedicated to providing exceptional care to all patients facing the end of life wherever they call home.

**To schedule a FREE HOSPICE INFORMATIONAL VISIT, please call:
608-241-6917 or 1-800-900-8040
www.HomeHealthUnited.org**