



VNA Hospice and Palliative Care



Comfort and Hope

Hospice and Palliative Care is some of the most important work we do at VNA. It's a privilege for us to be there for you to provide care, so you can focus on time with your loved ones.

We are honored to be there at these important moments in our patients' lives.



Visiting Nurse Association

Shaping tomorrow's care. Today.

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"Without your help it would have been so much harder to keep my wife home where she wanted to be. You made her feel special like she was the only patient you had. Every person at VNA has that ability."

"Words cannot express our gratitude for all the care and love you gave to our loved one. She was so happy and grateful for you all! It was truly a comfort for our family to know she was being made so comfortable, and being so far away, this was a blessing."

"Thank you so much for the professional, heart-warming care you all provided our dad. You made his last days pain free, comfortable and dignified. We cannot thank you enough for your excellent care."



Accredited by The Joint Commission

Expert care, comfort and peace of mind

Shaping tomorrow's care.
Today.

Understanding Hospice and Palliative Care

If you or a loved one is facing a life-limiting illness, it is important to understand all of the benefits that Hospice and Palliative Care provides. Hospice and Palliative Care is a medical specialty focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms and stress of declining health. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and their family by addressing physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs.

What is Hospice?

Hospice care is appropriate when an illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatment and the focus shifts to providing care, comfort and support through the end of life. Treatments and medications aimed at relieving symptoms are provided by the hospice team with a goal of comfort, not cure. Hospice care extends support to friends and family members and promotes living life to the fullest.

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care helps patients who have been diagnosed with a serious illness find comfort and relief from symptoms such as pain, nausea or shortness of breath. Anyone with a life-threatening illness, regardless of life expectancy, can receive palliative care. Palliative care and curative care can be received at the same time.

Is It Time for Hospice?

When medical care cannot offer a cure and time is measured in months, not years, transitioning to hospice care can offer valuable benefits. Choosing to transition to this type of care can be a challenging, emotional decision, but often earlier is better. The following are indicators that it may be time for a hospice evaluation:

- Frequent hospitalizations, emergency room visits and/or physician visits
- Disease frequently worsens and/or shorter time between periods of stability
- Ten percent or greater weight loss over a six- to 12-month period
- A decline in overall endurance or ability to perform activities of daily living
- Worsening laboratory values

By understanding the benefits of hospice early on, you have more time to research and understand your options — and your loved ones can fully benefit from the emotional and physical support our compassionate hospice professionals provide. VNA's Hospice and Palliative Care services include support for those who are in need during and after the loss of a loved one.

Personalized, Expert Care

VNA Hospice services include:

<i>Physician-directed plan of care</i>	<i>Medical social workers</i>
<i>Certified hospice and palliative care nurses</i>	<i>Home health aides</i>
<i>Medications for pain and symptom management</i>	<i>Patient/family-focused care</i>
<i>Medical equipment</i>	<i>Registered dietitians</i>
<i>Respite care</i>	<i>Spiritual counseling</i>
<i>Hospice inpatient care</i>	<i>Rehabilitation therapists (PT, OT, ST)</i>
	<i>Bereavement services</i>
	<i>Adult and teen volunteer services</i>

Hospice services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide you and your loved one with the highest quality of care.

Coverage and Eligibility

Hospice care is a covered benefit under Medicare, Medicaid and many private insurance companies. Hospice benefits generally include visits by the interdisciplinary hospice team, as well as medications, equipment and supplies related to the terminal condition.

VNA provides Hospice and Palliative Care in Omaha and surrounding communities. For residents of southwest Iowa, hospice is provided in partnership with Hospice of Southwest Iowa.

