

## Hospice Care

- Hospice is not a place, it is a concept. When you or someone you love is diagnosed with a life limiting illness, you may elect your hospice benefit. This benefit entitles you to spend the rest of your life in the comfort of wherever you call home surrounded by those who love you, and as pain free as possible.
- Hospice care is a Medicare benefit. However, we are concerned that individuals who may want hospice care, and could benefit from it, may not be learning about it or may be learning about it late in the course of their illness. While Hospice care is considered end of life care, patients can receive this care for up to two years.
- Facts:
  - Hospice is 100% covered by Medicare/Medicaid for those who qualify. Private insurance and Managed Care policies may offer hospice benefits.
  - Hospice patients do not have to be home bound.
  - Hospice does not mean giving up.
  - Hospice patients are encouraged to remain as vibrant and mobile as their physical condition allows.
  - Hospice provides medications and medical equipment.
  - You have the right to choose which hospice provider you prefer.
  - Hospice provides counseling, education, and bereavement services for the family and care-giver.
  - Anyone can refer to a Hospice service for help.

Discuss Hospice with your doctor when you feel their services are needed and he or she can refer a service to you.