What is hospice care?
Hospice is a special kind of care focused on the physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs of terminally ill patients and their families. Hospice care treats the person rather than the disease; it focuses on quality rather than length of life. Patient and family members are involved in making decisions with a team of compassionate professionals.

Who can be admitted to hospice and what does the process involve?
Cedar Valley Hospice services are for people with a life-limiting illness and a life expectancy estimated at six months or less. Both the doctor and patient agree to the need for care that provides comfort when curative treatment of the disease is not an option.

Should I wait for our physician to suggest hospice?
Anyone can make the call to Cedar Valley Hospice for services, including: the patient, family, clergy, friends or health care provider. If the patient’s physician has not made the referral to Cedar Valley Hospice, the staff will contact the physician for permission to admit them to our hospice program.

What geographic area does Cedar Valley Hospice cover?
Cedar Valley Hospice provides care in the following counties: Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Grundy, Tama, and parts of Benton, Chickasaw, Delaware, Fayette, Hardin, Linn and Marshall.

About Us
Cedar Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit multi-service agency that provides home care services to those with a life limiting illness; hospice services to those with a six month or less prognosis, grief support services to anyone struggling with the death of a loved one, and case management services for those living with HIV or AIDS and their families. Services are available to anyone regardless of where they call home, age, diagnosis, or their ability to pay.

Anyone can make a referral. It’s never too soon to call and find out what resources are available to you at Cedar Valley Hospice. Call 319.272.2002 or 800.617.1972.

“Cedar Valley Hospice was a blessing to my family during the last few months of our loved one’s life. The support we were given us the needed rest and guidance necessary to be the best caregivers.”

Kathy Turner & the Joe Blanch Family

Questions About Hospice

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questions about hospice
are all hospices the same?
No. Although all hospices specialize in the care of life-threatening illnesses, the array of care and services can differ widely among hospice providers. Regardless of what hospital or doctor is caring for you or your loved ones, you have a choice in hospice services. Cedar Valley Hospice is an independent, not-for-profit, community health care provider and has been serving your family, friends and neighbors since 1979. Ask for us by name.

how much does hospice care cost and is it covered by insurance?
Cedar Valley Hospice care is available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance companies cover the costs of hospice services. Community contributions and a sliding fee scale for some programs of Cedar Valley Hospice cover costs for those who can't pay.

what happens if we need help between hospice team visits?
Cedar Valley Hospice registered nurses are available 24 hours a day for patient or family concerns that may arise.

is hospice care only for cancer patients?
No. Cedar Valley Hospice care is appropriate for anyone in the advanced stages of a life-limiting illness, with a prognosis of six months or less. This includes, but is not limited to heart disease, cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, AIDS, neurological and renal diseases, chronic lung disease and other end-stage diseases.

hospice care
Cedar Valley Hospice's team of compassionate professionals provide comfort and care to patients with advanced illness and their families. A team of doctors, nurses, social workers, spiritual care counselors, hospice aides and volunteers provide care wherever patients reside. We will individualize your plan of care and treat you with the respect, dignity and compassion you deserve. Whatever the setting, our goal is to improve the quality of life for those in our care by addressing their physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs.

the area’s only Hospice Home
Care is also available at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home located at 2001 Kimball Ave in Waterloo. Highly trained nurses are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in this beautifully decorated, home-like environment.

inpatient care
Short-term stays provide pain and symptom management, along with skilled care for those who are imminent dying. Short-term residential care is also available.

respite care
A stay that provides family members temporary rest and relief from caregiving or time to attend out-of-town functions.

community programs
Cedar Valley Hospice offers additional programs to the community.

speakers bureau
Educational presentations offered free to the community on hospice care and other end-of-life issues.

grief support services
Comprehensive counseling, support services and education on dying, death and grief. As part of our Eucalyptus Tree program, we also offer support and care to children and families experiencing life-limiting illness or grieving a death.

LINK palliative care
Supportive care and case management to individuals and families facing an advanced or life-threatening illness who may not be eligible for, or seeking, hospice services yet.

cedar AIDS support system (CASS)
Medical case management and support for people living with HIV or AIDS and their loved ones.

when is the right time to call Cedar Valley Hospice?
Having cared for patients and those who love them since 1979, we suggest you start by recognizing the following symptoms:

- Weight loss
- Small/decreased appetite
- Changes/increased assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs)
- Increased oxygen utilization
- Pain that is more difficult to control
- Increased hospitalizations or visits to ER
- Increased infections (upper respiratory, urinary tract, etc)
- Decline in mental status
- Increased weakness, fatigue, drowsiness

Simply one or two of these symptoms may suggest the individual is eligible for hospice. To request a consultation, please call 319.272.2002 or 800.617.1972.

Our hospice staff can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week should a concern arise or if hospice services are wanted.