

Hospice Myth vs. Fact

MYTH: Enrolling in hospice means you are giving up.



FACT: Enrolling in hospice is choosing to focus on quality of life and focused care. People enrolled in hospice actually live, on average, 29 days longer than those not enrolled.

MYTH: If I enroll in hospice, I will have to give up my primary doctor.



FACT: When enrolled in hospice, a patient's primary care doctor works closely with the hospice team and communicates with them regularly.

MYTH: To receive hospice care, I will have to leave my home for an inpatient facility.



FACT: Hospice is not a place, it is a concept of care. At Cedar Valley Hospice, 96% of hospice patients receive hospice services wherever they call home.

MYTH: Hospice care is expensive and my family won't be able to afford it.



FACT: Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and many private insurances. At Cedar Valley Hospice, no one is denied service for inability to pay. Hospice often alleviates a financial burden because related medical needs are paid for through the hospice benefit.

MYTH: Hospice care is just for people with a cancer diagnosis.



FACT: Hospice serves people of any age dealing with serious illnesses with a prognosis of six months or less. Other than cancer, common diagnoses also include: COPD, heart disease, dementia, HIV/AIDS and more.

MYTH: All hospice providers are pretty much the same.



FACT: Hospice providers are separate entities. At Cedar Valley Hospice, staff are specially trained to focus on person-centered, compassionate care for the entire family.

MYTH: If it's time for hospice, my doctor will talk to me about it.



FACT: Many doctors wait for a patient to bring up hospice, leading to late enrollment. Families and patients often tell Cedar Valley Hospice that they wish they had known sooner about all the benefits hospice provides. Anyone can make a referral.