



# When It's Time for Hospice

*Our trained in-home hospice staff is here to provide emotional and physical support when you and your loved one need it most. Feel free to call us at 1-800-991-6147 with your questions .*

## Important Questions to Ask & Next Steps

**ONE: Identify possible changes indicating that a person may have a life limiting disease.**

A family member or patient who is seriously ill may be ready for a hospice evaluation if you notice any of the following changes:

- Significant loss of appetite and weight loss
- Increased emergency room visits
- Shortness of breath while at rest
- Increase in the number of falls
- Sleeping more during the day
- Increasing confusion
- Decreased functional ability

**TWO: Have a discussion about the patient's current knowledge about their condition.**

Family members and patients are sometimes reluctant to initiate a discussion about their serious illness and their expectations. Here are some questions that may help in framing a discussion from the Hospice Foundation of America through end of life conversations with many individuals and family members.

- Thinking about your death, what do you value most about your life?
- If you were diagnosed with a terminal illness, would you want to pursue every possible cure?
- Do you imagine wanting to stop curative efforts if they were unsuccessful?
- Do you want to die at home?
- How do you feel about an extended hospitalization?
- How much pain is acceptable to you?
- Do you want to be with your family when you die?
- What decisions regarding care do you want to entrust to others?
- What do you hope for most regarding your death or the death of a loved one?