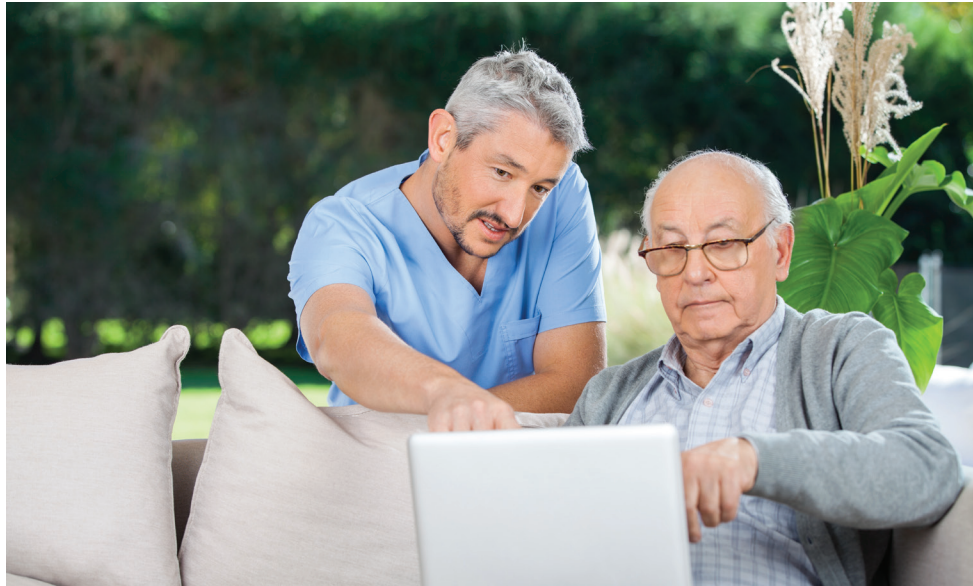


# How to choose a quality hospice



When a loved one is diagnosed with a serious or life-limiting illness, the questions facing an individual or a family can be overwhelming. The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization recommends that people learn more about hospice as an important option before they are faced with a medical crisis.

Hospice is not a place but a kind of care for people who have a life-limiting illness and are making the choice to focus on quality and comfort if more conventional treatments have become burdensome.

Hospices provide high-quality care that is tailored to your loved one's needs and that supports family caregivers.

Your doctor and other health care providers or your company's EAP may recommend hospice providers in your area. You can also get a list of hospice providers and more information about hospice from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization at [www.nhpco.org](http://www.nhpco.org).

## Important questions in choosing a quality hospice include:

- Is the hospice Medicare certified?
- What services should I expect from the hospice?
- How are services provided after hours?
- How and where does hospice provide short-term inpatient care?
- What services do volunteers offer?
- How long does it typically take the hospice to enroll someone once the request for services is made?

## When should hospice care begin?

Every patient and family must decide that based upon their unique needs. Professionals encourage people to learn about care options long before they think they may need them.