



# HOW TO CHOOSE A HOSPICE

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## TALK TO RELATIVES OR TRUSTED FRIENDS

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One of the best ways to find a good hospice is by word-of-mouth. Talk to relatives or trusted friends about their experiences with hospice.

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## ASK YOUR ONCOLOGIST OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

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Your doctor may offer to share the professional experiences they have had with a hospice. Health care providers such as nurses and social workers may know the names of hospices in your community, which they can tell you.

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## INTERVIEW SOME HOSPICES

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You can set up appointments with one hospice, or even a few hospices, to get more information. Hospices can send someone to meet with you and your family. At that visit, they can tell you about the services that they will provide and answer your questions. There should be no charge for this visit, and you should not feel obligated to choose any hospice after the interview. Hospice visits can help you think about what is most important to you and your family. Before you arrange one of these visits, the hospice will tell you if they are covered by your insurance.

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## QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK A HOSPICE

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- How quickly will a plan of care be developed?
- What is the usual response time after normal business hours, or on weekends and holidays?
- What does the hospice do when pain cannot be adequately managed at home?
- How will the hospice respond if medications do not seem to be helping pain or other symptoms?
- Are there any services, medications, or equipment that the hospice doesn't provide?
- When the hospice orders medication, where can it be picked up, or is it delivered by the hospice?
- What kind of out-of-pocket expenses can be anticipated?
- How often will a hospice team member visit and how long will most visits last?
- Will the hospice provide training to the family or caregivers?
- Can the hospice provide family or caregivers a break and how does this happen?
- What help do hospice volunteers provide and how is help requested from a volunteer?
- Does the hospice measure quality of care and can data be shared?
- Does the hospice offer bereavement support?
- Is the patient able to leave the area while under hospice care?