# Palliative Care vs. Hospice Care

## Differences

### Palliative Care
- Palliative care provides treatment that enhances comfort and improves the quality of a person’s life.
- **Philosophy**
  - Provides relief from pain and other symptoms
  - Offers a support system to help patients improve their quality of life
  - Offers a support system to help the family and caregivers cope during the patient’s illness

### Hospice Care
- Hospice provides support and care for persons in the last phase of an incurable disease so that they can live as fully and as comfortably as possible.
- **Philosophy**
  - Uses a team approach to address the needs of patients, families, and caregivers
  - Provides care for psychological and spiritual needs

### Eligibility
- **Palliative Care**
  - Patients at any stage of advanced and life-threatening illness, without time restrictions
  - Throughout the illness, including the active treatment phase

- **Hospice Care**
  - Patients with a prognosis of six months or less, if the disease continues its normal course
  - When treatment is not desired or not an option

### Care Team
- **Palliative Care**
  - May include:
    - Doctor specializing in palliative care
    - Nurse
    - Aide
    - Dietician
    - Social Worker
    - Pharmacist
    - Spiritual Counselor
    - Therapist
    - Volunteer

- **Hospice Care**
  - May include:
    - Doctor specializing in palliative care
    - Bereavement Counselor
    - Pharmacist
    - Spiritual Counselor
    - Therapist
    - Volunteer

### Location
- **Palliative Care**
  - Palliative care is often received in an institution such as a hospital. It may also be received at home, a clinic or nursing home.

- **Hospice Care**
  - Hospice is a service that comes to the patient, wherever the patient resides. This can include a private home, skilled nursing facility, or residential hospice.

### Insurance
- **Palliative Care**
  - Paid for by the following:
    - Medicare – coverage provided under Medicare Part B, with applicable co-pays and fees.
    - Medicaid – coverage provided by standard Medicaid benefits, with applicable co-pays and fees.
    - Private Insurance – coverage is dependent upon insurance.

- **Hospice Care**
  - Paid for by the following:
    - Medicare – services related to the terminal illness are paid for in full by the Medicare Hospice Benefit Part A.
    - Medicaid – paid for in full by the Medicaid Hospice Benefit.
    - Private Insurance – most insurances cover hospice services in full or with minimal co-pays.

## Similarities
- Provides relief from pain and other symptoms
- Offers a support system to help patients improve their quality of life
- Offers a support system to help the family and caregivers cope during the patient’s illness