

MERCY ™ HOSPICE

quality of life

comfort

compassion

dignity



The hospice pioneers of South Alabama

MERCY ™
MEDICAL

Hospice
Home Health
Rehabilitation
Lifecare Retirement
Assisted Living
Memory Care

What is hospice?

Hospice is a holistic program for people who have incurable illnesses, have progressed into the final stages of life and want to focus on quality of life rather than cure. Hospice affirms life and regards dying as a stage of living. Hospice does not seek to lengthen survival nor hurry death, but instead focuses on minimizing pain, managing symptoms, and providing comfort, dignity and quality of life.

Why choose Mercy Hospice?

In 1979, Mercy Medical pioneered hospice in South Alabama and remains the area's only provider of an integrated continuum of care, including hospice care both in the home and in Mercy's inpatient facilities. Renowned for their compassionate care and expertise, as evidenced by the many nationally certified hospice nurses on staff, Mercy Medical's Hospice team uses the latest practices and technologies to minimize pain and manage symptoms. With dignity and respect, Mercy emphasizes a patient's wishes, comfort and quality of life.



Providing Mercy Hospice since 1979




Where did hospice originate?


The word “hospice” originated in medieval times to describe a place of shelter and rest for weary or sick travelers on long journeys. In 1967, physician Cicely Saunders, established St. Christopher’s Hospice in South London and is credited as the founder of the modern hospice movement. Her program combined compassionate care with modern pain and symptom control techniques provided by a team of professional caregivers.

“You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but to live until you die.”

– Dame Cicely Saunders,
Founder of Hospice Movement



Enhancing Health. Celebrating Life.



*“Mercy Medical complex
commitment, values*

Commitment, Values & Mission

How does hospice work?

A registered nurse case manager, specialized in hospice, meets with the patient and family to discuss hospice care and services, pain and comfort levels, expectations, advanced directives, financial and insurance resources, medications and equipment needs. From the information gathered, the Mercy Hospice team develops a plan of care that outlines support, services, and education for the patient and family members. It addresses a patient's physical, emotional and spiritual well being and offers supportive services for family members.

Who is the hospice team?

The Mercy Hospice interdisciplinary team includes the attending physician (patient's doctor), hospice medical director, RN case manager, social worker, chaplain, therapists, home health aides, pharmacist, dietician, volunteers, family and patient. The patient and family are the core of the team and lead the decision making. The hospice case manager visits regularly, is the main contact, supervises personal care, and coordinates assistance from the team of highly trained healthcare professionals. Volunteers are carefully screened and trained, and provide services such as running errands, respite, reading, and diversional activities.

tely outshines any group that I've had healthcare and mission. It shows in everything you do

Comfort & Dignity

Who uses hospice?

Although a large percentage of hospice patients have a cancer diagnosis, hospice is a resource for people in the end stages of chronic illnesses such as diabetes; heart, liver, kidney, and lung disease; failure to thrive; Alzheimer's disease or dementia; HIV/AIDS; and neuromuscular diseases. Mercy Hospice cares for patients without regard to age, race, sexual preference, religion or ability to pay.

- Case management of the medical needs for the hospice diagnosis
- Skilled nursing care –
 - RN/LPNs on call 24/7
 - Education and instruction on care and medications
 - Routine assessments
 - Systems management -wound care, catheter care, colostomy care, lab tests, etc.
- Nutritional, emotional and spiritual counseling
- Personal care –
 - bathing, dressing, and grooming
- Assistance with medical equipment and supplies
- Assistance with financial and community resources
- Bereavement services
- Home safety instruction

*Mercy
Hospice
Services*

are experience with. I believe the difference is

.”

Compassionate Care Options

Hospice Home Care

Mercy's hospice team provides services in the patient home: a private residence, nursing home, assisted living facility or wherever the patient lives.

Continuous Care

An alternative to inpatient admission for a medical crisis, the Medicare and Medicaid Hospice Benefit provides private duty nursing care in the home, designed for short-term crisis intervention. The hours of nursing care depends on a patient's needs.

Inpatient Hospice

Inpatient hospice care is available at Mercy for crisis management, when intensive nursing and other support are required.

Criteria for this level of hospice care include:

- a. Uncontrolled distressing physical symptoms, uncontrolled pain, severe dyspnea, nausea, or severe wounds
- b. Psychosocial problems – caregiver illness, unsafe home environment, imminent death where family can no longer cope at home

Hospice Respite Care

This short term inpatient care is designed to relieve the family or primary caregiver. Caregivers often schedule respite to travel, rest or take care of their own healthcare needs.

due to your

— PAT HALL
DAUGHTER OF ALMA LAURENDINE
HOSPICE PATIENT

Quality of Life

Guidelines for admission

- End-stage illness, as determined by a physician, medical director and insurance guidelines
- Physician referral
- *Life expectancy of 6 months or less
- The patient and family choose hospice rather than a curative treatment

**If a patient outlives his life expectancy, and is still eligible by admission guidelines, there is no time limitation on hospice services.*

Who pays for hospice?

Reimbursement for Mercy Hospice services is provided through Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. Mercy Hospice serves patients not on their ability to pay but their need for care.

How can you help?

To provide services to all who are in need of hospice care, Mercy Medical relies heavily on support from the community.

You can help by:

- making a contribution
- becoming a volunteer
- planned giving including trusts, bequests, real estate, stock, charitable gift annuities and retirement assets.
- recommending a loved one to Mercy Hospice



Mission

Mercy Medical is called to the healing ministry of Jesus Christ providing compassionate, holistic and excellent care to persons of all ages, under the sponsorship of the Sisters of Mercy and as a member of Catholic Health East.

Enhancing Health. Celebrating Life.

MERCY [™]
HOSPICE

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