

What do you know about hospice services...The answers might surprise you!

Answer each statement True or False:

Hospice services are costly or cost prohibitive.

False. Valor currently covers 100% of Medicare benefits, and Medicaid (AHCCCS) and most private insurance companies.

Hospice is a place for people who no longer wish to have curative and interventional medical services.

False. Hospice is not a location, but a philosophy of care based on maintaining comfort and dignity at the end of life.

The hospice team that provides care is designed according to each patient's needs, and may include physicians, registered nurses, social workers, home health aides, spiritual care providers and volunteers to ease the burden on both the patient and the family.

True. Each patient's case is evaluated and team members are assigned as needed, from physicians and nurses to social workers and home health aides. Only Medicare-certified and licensed hospice programs offer all of these benefits to patients and their loved ones.

All referrals of patients to hospice programs must be from a physician.

False. Anyone can make a referral for hospice care. By law the decision belongs to the patient for electing the hospice benefit.

The patient's own doctor remains as the primary care physician, in addition to a hospice physician.

True. Patients need not worry about having to give up their relationship with their own physician. The primary care physician works with the hospice physician to maximize patient comfort. In fact, the patient can continue receiving treatments from their physician for symptoms outside of the terminal diagnosis.

Hospice patients must have a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) or "No Code Order" to be on hospice services.

False. Hospice can admit patients who want a full resuscitation effort. Hospice educates and supports patients regarding their choices.

Choosing hospice means the patient and family are deciding to give up hope by foregoing extreme curative measures.

False. Choosing hospice means choosing to live life to the fullest and make the best of every day! Hospice promotes living with comfort and dignity until death.

Hospice gives pain drugs to hasten death.

False. Medications are given to promote comfort until natural death occurs.

Any patient diagnosed with a serious illness may receive hospice care.

False. Any patient who has been diagnosed with an incurable illness, and has a life expectancy of six months or less, is eligible for hospice care.

Hospice hours are like a business, 8 to 5.

False. Our doctors, nurses, home health aides, even social workers and spiritual care providers are available on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our staff is available to support patients and families.

For further information, please visit www.valorhospicecare.com.