

Hospice vs. Palliative Care

Quick Reference Guide

Hospice Care

VS

Palliative Care

INSURANCE

100% covered by private insurance/Medicare/Medicaid



May be covered by private insurance/Medicare/Medicaid, depending on state and plan

ELIGIBILITY/TIMING

6 months or less to live, if the illness runs its expected course



Any stage of disease, including at time of diagnosis

CURATIVE TREATMENT

Provided after curative treatment stops



Provided at the same time as curative treatment

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LENGTH OF CARE

Length of care is a maximum of six months; can be extended if eligibility criteria is met



Length of care is based on patient needs and insurance benefits

SETTING

Delivered in any setting the patient calls home



Available in hospitals, outpatient clinics and in homes

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Family/caregiver support may include respite care



Family/caregiver support may include participation in creating care goals

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OTHER
SUPPORT

Provides some in-home care support like bathing



Provides care coordination to help patients find the best resources

WHAT BOTH OFFER

- Help people with serious illness feel better
- Pain and symptom relief
- Interdisciplinary, team-based approach
- Lower cost than hospital or facility care
- Helps avoid unnecessary trips to the hospital
- Tailored to wishes and needs of the patient
- Works together with the patient's primary physician