



## **Southern Maine Agency on Aging**

### **Family Caregiver Support Program**

#### **Hospice Information**

Hospice provides individualized care and support for people with an incurable disease and their loved ones. Care is delivered by a team of expertly trained individuals and is focused on comfort rather than cure, with specific attention to managing pain and symptoms, providing emotional and spiritual support, and helping to meet end-of-life goals. A Hospice care team may include a: physician, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, hospice aide, chaplain, and volunteer.

People can receive hospice care within the following settings:

- at home (most common)
- in the hospital
- at an extended care facility, such as a nursing home
- at a specialized hospice center

#### **Frequently Covered Supplies (Hospice Benefit)**

- Adult Diapers, various
- Adult Briefs, various
- Incontinence Supplies, various
- Oral Care Supplies/mouth swabs
- Disposable Bed Pads
- Urinal Bed Pans
- Wound Care Supplies, various
- Disposable Wipes
- Body/Hair Care
- Direct Medical Equipment (DME):
  - Hospital Bed & Overbed Table
  - Bedside Commode
  - Wheelchair

- 4-wheel Walker
- Shower Chair
- Broda Chair/Recliner
- Oxygen

## **Hospice Questions**

- **When should I look into Hospice?**
  - Hospice Care can begin when an illness becomes so advanced it is no longer curable and it is not possible to control it.
  - Two physicians, a qualified hospice doctor and a person's primary care doctor, need to [certify](#) whether they meet the criteria for hospice care.
  - A diagnosis such as cancer, Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias, end-stage heart disease, COPD, end-stage kidney disease, stroke, ALS, and others could all make a person eligible to receive hospice care.
- **What is the difference between Hospice and Palliative Care?**
  - Palliative care can occur alongside a curative or life-prolonging treatment while hospice care does not.
- **I'm interested in finding out more about Hospice, what do I do next?**
  - Speak with your care recipient's primary care physician. The Southern Maine Agency on Aging has a list of Hospice Care agencies with their contact information.
- **How do I pay for Hospice Care?**
  - Hospice services are a 100% covered benefit of Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurances.