



## MYTHS & FACTS ABOUT HOSPICE

**MYTH |** “Hospice means I’m giving up hope.”

**FACT |** It may be more accurate to say that Hospice is about *redefining* hope. You may hope to be pain-free, or to see an old friend one more time, or to stay at home rather than going to a hospital. Your Providence Hospice team can help you achieve those hopes and focus on making the most of the life that remains.

**MYTH |** “Hospice means I’m going to die soon.”

**FACT |** Hospice care is usually prescribed when your doctor believes your illness is terminal. But accepting Hospice care does not hasten your death. In fact, in many cases, people who accept Hospice care earlier have a better chance that their condition will stabilize. If that becomes the case, you can come off Hospice until you need it again.

**MYTH |** “Choosing Hospice care means I am rejecting traditional medical treatment.”

**FACT |** If you are on Hospice, and your condition starts to improve, you always have the right to return to traditional care at any time, for any reason. You can be discharged from a Hospice at any time, and you can be readmitted again if you choose.

**MYTH |** “Hospice is only for cancer patients.”

**FACT |** Cancer is a leading cause of death, and many cancer patients do choose Hospice care after treatments have failed. But many other terminal diagnoses can benefit from Hospice care. Providence Hospice clients have included people with heart disease, lung disease, dementia, kidney disease, and liver disease.

**MYTH |** “Hospice provides 24-hour care.”

**FACT |** The Providence Hospice team is available 24 hours a day to meet our patients’ needs.

**MYTH |** “Hospice requires Medicare or Medicaid.”

**FACT |** In Illinois, several methods of payment are available for Hospice care. Both Medicare and Medicaid include a Hospice Benefit that covers all costs — the Hospice team, durable medical equipment, medical supplies, and medications. The social workers at Providence Hospice know how to access those benefits. In addition, most private insurance plans include Hospice care as a benefit.

**MYTH |** “It is my doctor who decides what Hospice program I use.”

**FACT |** In order to receive Hospice, you must have a physician’s order that certifies your terminal diagnosis, but you have the right to choose the Hospice you feel most comfortable with.

**MYTH |** “Hospice is just for the patient.”

**FACT |** Providence Hospice understands that a terminal diagnosis can be difficult for the whole family. Our caregivers provide care for the patient, but also comfort, and support for the whole family. In fact, we offer bereavement support to the family for an entire year after a death.

**MYTH |** “All Hospice programs are the same.”

**FACT |** Certain services are common to all Hospice programs, but care philosophies and operating styles may vary. Providence Hospice is a faith-based organization, and that impacts the way we deliver care and interact with family members. It also means we have a Hospice Chaplain available for people who need prayer and guidance regarding end-of-life preparations.