



Questions to Ask the Hospice Team

There's a common misconception that asking for help from hospice means death is days or weeks away. But with dementia, where decline can be slow and unpredictable, hospice can be a long-term provider of vital support. Another misconception is that bringing hospice care on board will speed up death or artificially slow it down. But that's not the case. The goal of hospice care is to make sure the natural end of life is as comfortable, dignified, and pain-free as possible. These are some questions to consider asking a hospice team if/when you decide it's time to enlist their help.

Pain Management

- How will you manage my loved one's pain if it increases?
- What medications are available, and how do you decide which to use?
- How often will you monitor for pain or discomfort?
- How quickly can you respond if my loved one is in pain between scheduled visits?
- What non-medication comfort measures do you recommend (positioning, temperature, massage)?

Communication

- Who is my main point of contact, and how do I reach you?
- How often will you be in the home, and can that schedule change if needs change?
- What signs or changes should I watch for and report to you?
- How will you keep us informed about what to expect in the coming days or weeks?

End-of-Life Planning

- What can we expect in the final days and hours?
- Are there decisions we need to make now about comfort care?
- Do you support any spiritual practices our family may want to include?
- How will your team support our family after this time?

