What is Hospice?

Hospice is medical care designed to maximize comfort and quality of life for patients facing terminal illnesses.

It provides pain management, emotional support, help with family care giving, and spiritual care to patients and their families when a cure is not possible.

When is Hospice appropriate?

You or your loved one may be ready to receive hospice services immediately after a terminal diagnosis, or hospice may not be an option for quite some time. The best way to determine whether hospice is right for you or your loved one is through an individual look at your situation. Often, a person can benefit from the services we offer earlier if they have open discussions with their physician to help make the decision to choose hospice care.

Hospice may be appropriate for individuals with advanced cancer, cardiac disease, AIDS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, renal failure, neurological conditions and other chronic diseases.
Hospice care can be provided in the home, in a nursing home, or in a short-term in-patient hospital setting. Brookings Health System has provided Medicare-certified hospice services since 1995.

The Hospice Team

Brookings Health System employs a caring team of specially trained professionals and volunteers who work with the patient’s physician to provide a plan of care designed to control the pain and ease end-of-life struggles for the patients and their families.

Hospice Services Offered:

- Nursing services offered regularly and on an on-call basis
- Medical social services
- Spiritual care
- Personal care services
- Home management services
- Volunteer assistance to help with companionship, respite, errands, etc.
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy services
- Nutritional services
- Medication for symptom management
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Short-term in-patient care
- Bereavement/aftercare services for at least a year

Here is list of areas hospice volunteers can assist with:

- Assist with daily care
- Prepare/serve meals or snacks
- Offer companionship
- Provide transportation
- Homemaking chores
- Visit client in hospital (if admitted and desired)
- Errands for family
- Observance of special days for clients and their families
- Assist bereavement coordinator with follow-up on families

Become a Hospice Volunteer

You can help us fulfill our promise. Volunteers play an extremely important role in the hospice programs. These valued individuals provide assistance at all levels of skill, and many relatives and friends of former hospice patients, who having seen how much hospice can help, want to dedicate their volunteer efforts.