

Hospice emphasizes life

Hospice is a specialized care for people with limited life expectancy and their families that:

treats the physical needs of the patient and addresses psychological and spiritual needs;

takes place in a patient's home, or in a home-like setting;

emphasizes patient comfort and pain management;

promotes quality of life —

not adding days to a person's life, but adding life to a person's days;

embodies death with dignity.

... adapted from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

Trusted care for those in need.

Ask for Hospice of VNS.

It is our policy to admit and treat all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, handicap, age, sex, marital status, religion or sexual preferences.

Hospice of Visiting Nurse Service

Justin T. Rogers Care Center

3358 Ridgewood Road
Akron, Ohio 44333

**For Referrals or Additional Information
call 330-665-1455**

or

Toll Free: 800-362-0031

TTY: Ohio Relay Services 800-750-0750

Hospice of Visiting Nurse Service serves
Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit,
and Wayne Counties.

*Take a virtual tour of our
Hospice Care Center at:*

www.vnsa.com

***Services available 24 hours a day,
365 days a year***

Hospice of Visiting Nurse Service is a non-profit, community-based hospice organization, incorporated according to the laws of the State of Ohio and functioning under the leadership of its Board of Directors.

Serving the area since 1979.

***An affiliate of Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates,
Ohio's most comprehensive home health care system.***

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Hospice Services



**AKRON GENERAL
VISITING NURSE SERVICE**
Hospice & Palliative Care

What is Hospice?

Hospice provides care and support for persons in the last phases of a life-limiting illness so that they may live as fully and as comfortably as possible. Hospice recognizes dying as a natural part of the living process and focuses on maintaining the quality of remaining life. The focus of Hospice is to help the patient and family with end-of-life decision-making, meeting life's goals, enhancing family relationships, and promoting comfort.

Who is eligible for Hospice Care?

Hospice services are available for individuals who have been diagnosed with any life-limiting illness and have a prognosis of six months or less if the disease runs its normal course. It is not uncommon for Hospice patients to live longer. In that event, they can be recertified for additional services.

Many people have the misconception that Hospice is primarily for cancer patients. That is not correct. Hospice services are for any patient with any life-limiting illness.

When is it time for Hospice?

Many patients and families consider Hospice care when:

- comfort-oriented care to improve the quality of life is most important
- life is measured in weeks or months rather than years
- curative treatment is not an alternative or is no longer desired

Referrals to Hospice of VNS can be made by patients, families and friends, physicians, clergy or other health professionals. A Hospice nurse or social worker will schedule an initial visit with the patient and family to discuss the Hospice program and eligibility.

Where is Hospice Care provided?

Since 1979, Hospice of VNS has cared for patients wherever they live — whether at home, retirement communities, independent and assisted living residences, or nursing facilities.

Hospice services are also available at the Justin T. Rogers Care Center. The goal of the Care Center is to provide compassionate hospice services in a home-like setting for patients needing acute inpatient, respite or residential care.

How is Hospice reimbursed for care?

Hospice services are a covered benefit under the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Most major medical insurance companies also offer a hospice benefit.

Who is involved in Hospice care?

Hospice care is provided by a specially-trained team of caring health professionals and volunteers who strive to keep patients and their families comfortable, at peace, and in control of their lives during a changing time.

The Hospice Interdisciplinary Team works closely with the patient, family, and physician to coordinate the patient's care



and to provide expertise in the management of the patient's terminal illness. This Team includes Medical Directors; Registered Nurses; Nurse's Aides; Medical Social Workers; Hospice Chaplains; Dieticians; Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapists; Bereavement Counselors, and Volunteers.

What are the benefits of Hospice Care?

Hospice will help the patient and the family by:

- ◆ Managing pain and distressful symptoms
- ◆ Teaching families how to comfort and care for their loved ones
- ◆ Offering support for problems, questions, medication adjustments or reassurance 24 hours a day
- ◆ Covering medications, medical equipment, and supplies related to the illness
- ◆ Providing assistance with personal care (baths, meals, light housekeeping)
- ◆ Helping to strengthen relationships with loved ones
- ◆ Assisting with the burdens of decision-making at the end of life
- ◆ Providing bereavement and spiritual care support for the patient and family. Bereavement support groups and one-on-one counseling are available.