

St. Francis REFLECTIONS® Lifestage Care

Established 1977 • Licensed 1990

PATIENT GUIDE TO HOSPICE

St. Francis Reflections Hospice has more than four decades of experience helping people live their remaining days to the fullest, with comfort, dignity and an individualized focus on what matters most for each patient and family. Easing the weight of care for families allows patients and loved ones to cherish their remaining time together better.

Our Hospice Team Approach

When you choose hospice care, you and your family will be wrapped in support by our interdisciplinary team of caring professionals. Your hospice team will include:

- **Registered Nurses** to provide hands-on skilled care, educate, assist with medication management, and coordinate with patient/family and the interdisciplinary team. RN's are available by phone 24/7 and our skilled nurse team can provide after hours visits when needed.
- **Hospice Aides** to provide personal care, support, and companionship.
- **Social Workers** to listen, counsel, and connect families with community support systems.
- **Chaplains** to provide spiritual support or connect the family with members of their faith community.
- **Physicians** to review care for optimal symptom management, support the patient's own doctor, and to make house calls when needed. Physicians are available by phone 24/7.
- **Bereavement Counselors** who specialize in both adult and child grief. Our grief support services are free to anyone in our community.
- Other team members and services include massage therapy, registered dietitian, physical therapy, and volunteer services.

Member of:
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
Florida Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
Center to Advance Palliative Care



Reflecting life, love and compassion



When is it Time for Hospice?

Choosing hospice does not mean you are “giving up”, rather, you are recognizing that there is no further curative treatment possible and that a new phase of care is more appropriate for your needs. Hospice services are not only for those final moments of life, but for the quality time left after a terminal diagnosis.

Am I eligible for Hospice?

A thorough assessment completed by a registered nurse will be reviewed by our hospice physician to determine eligibility. Criteria for hospice eligibility may include (*but not limited to*):

- Overall decline in physical/cognitive health over the last 6 months
- Frequent hospital visits and/or infections
- Weight loss, decreased nutritional intake, trouble swallowing
- Increased need for assistance with activities of daily living (*bathing, toileting, dressing, eating*)

How do I pay for Hospice?

Hospice care is primarily paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance or the VA. However, St. Francis Reflections hospice accepts all eligible patients, regardless of ability to pay.

Hospice Fact vs Myth

MYTH: I can't see my community physician while on hospice

FACT: Patient's may continue to see their primary care physicians and their community physicians while on hospice services.

MYTH: Hospice is a place

FACT: Hospice is a service provided to patients and families in the place they call home. St. Francis Reflections has care centers across the county that are utilized for patient's with severe symptom management needs.

MYTH: Patients can't have physical therapy, labs, IV medications, chemotherapy or radiation while on hospice

FACT: Our clinical team works with you to create a comprehensive care plan that is designed to offer the best quality of life and customized to your goals.

MYTH: Hospice will discontinue all medications

FACT: Our specialized physicians will evaluate all medications and make recommendations about adding or discontinuing medications based on your goals and needs.

MYTH: St. Francis only services Titusville.

FACT: St. Francis serves patients and families *throughout Brevard County.*

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