

Hospice & Concurrent Care

HOSPICE CARE

- Focuses on quality of life for patients with a life-limiting illness while also supporting family and caregivers.
- Does not shorten the lifespan, and in some cases can extend life due to the care and support received.
- Can be discontinued without penalty if the patient's goals of care change, or their health condition stabilizes or improves. It can then be restarted at a later date if needed.
- Is provided in the home, or wherever the patient calls home (such as assisted living or nursing home).
- Is paid for by Medicare or by VA.
- Eligibility is determined by physicians or nurse practitioners.

Limitations

- In-home hospice care does not provide 24/7 caregivers.
- Medical care not provided or arranged by the hospice agency or VA can result in out-of-pocket costs to the patient. Be sure to inform your hospice agency of any medical appointments.

Services Generally Provided By Hospice

- Hospice team availability by phone 24/7
- Nursing visits for assessment and coordination of care
- Hospice physician or nurse practitioner house call visits for symptom management
- Aide visits to assist with bathing and other self-care needs
- Social Work and chaplain services to provide emotional and spiritual support to patients and caregivers
- Medications
- Medical equipment and supplies (hospital bed, incontinence supplies, etc.)
- Short-term respite care in a nursing home facility

UNIQUE TO VA

- **Concurrent hospice care:** Veterans may receive hospice care AND ongoing care from their VA medical team(s), as long as that care is aimed at improving quality of life.
- **End-of-life benefit:** for veterans enrolled in hospice, VA will pay for room and board in a contracted nursing facility.



To learn more, please contact the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center palliative care provider line at 720-723-7823.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Eastern Colorado Health Care System