

Common Questions and Answers about Hospice

1) *When is it time for hospice?*

The patient, family and physician agree and understand that care will be based on comfort and quality of life. Curative treatment has been completed or is no longer desired.

2) *What is considered a life-limiting illness?*

Any serious illness such as cancer, chronic heart or lung disease, advanced dementia, or any diagnosis where the prognosis is expected to be approximately six months.

3) *Should I wait for my physician to suggest hospice or should I raise the issue first?*

We encourage patients with life-limiting illness and their families to discuss hospice care at any time with their physician. It's important for everyone, regardless of age, to share their end-of-life wishes.

4) *How can I make a referral to hospice or find out more information?*

Anyone can refer a patient to hospice. Individuals can self-refer, or elect to go through their physicians, family members, friends or hospital discharge planners. A member of the hospice team will evaluate the patient, and the physician will determine hospice eligibility.

5) *Does my health insurance pay for hospice care?*

Medicare, Medicaid and most medical insurance plans cover 100% of home hospice costs. St. Francis Hospice accepts patients solely on the basis of medical need and not on the basis of their ability to pay.

“Hospice gave me and my family the confidence and support to care for my mother at home.”

Hospice patient's daughter

ST. FRANCIS HOSPICE MISSION

The mission of St. Francis Hospice is to be an advocate for the needs of the terminally ill. The mission is supported by the Hospice staff, who are motivated to be peacemakers, witnessing to the gospel through our concern for quality of life and through the recognition that death is a natural part of life. When death becomes inevitable, Hospice will neither seek to hasten nor postpone it. Beyond providing relief of physical and emotional pain, patients and families are afforded spiritual resources of their own choosing, being ever respectful of their choice.

Please do not hesitate to call us even if you don't immediately need our services.

(808) 595-7566 or visit our website at stfrancishawaii.org

St. Francis Home Hospice

The Sister Maureen Keleher Center

24 Puiwa Road
Honolulu, HI 96817

The Maurice J. Sullivan Family Hospice Center

91-2127 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



St. Francis Hospice

A program of St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii
A Legacy of Caring for Hawaii's People

www.stfrancishawaii.org



St. Francis Hospice

*Caring with Compassion for Patients and Families
with Advanced Illness at Home*



**ST. FRANCIS
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF HAWAII**

A Legacy of Caring for Hawaii's People



*“Hospice allowed our father to die
and our family to live.”*

Hospice patient’s family

Expanding Your Circle of Support

St. Francis Hospice supports each patient with a team of skilled professionals providing expert medical care, pain and symptom management as well as emotional and spiritual support—all tailored for the needs of each individual and their family in this time of transition.

What is “Hospice”?

Hospice is a term used to describe a specialized health care program that provides compassionate care to terminally ill patients and their loved ones.

Hospice approaches death as a natural part of life, much like birth. Hospice assists the patient and family in dealing with the complexities that accompany a life-limiting illness. Hospice neither hastens nor postpones death. Hospice affirms life and regards death as a natural process.

Hospice is not a place; it is a special kind of care designed to bring comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families primarily at home. Care is also provided in care homes and assisted living or nursing facilities.

St. Francis Hospice is the first and largest hospice program in Hawaii, providing terminally ill patients and their families with compassionate care of the highest quality since 1978. We surround each patient and their family with support and tend to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Each hospice patient becomes a part of our ohana, with access to our medical directors, specially trained nurses, social workers, and others experienced in hospice care.

- **Hospice medical directors**, board certified in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, work alongside your doctor to assure a high level of pain and symptom management. They are available for house calls and visits at our two hospice inpatient facilities.
 - **Registered nurses** monitor the patient’s health, oversee pain and symptom management, and teach families how to care for their loved ones.
 - **Nursing assistants** help the patient with personal care such as bathing and light housekeeping.
 - **Chaplains** help patients with spiritual and end-of-life concerns. Spiritual Services are available to patients and family members of all faiths and always respect personal beliefs.
 - **Social workers** provide counseling, grief support and assistance in accessing community resources and with Advance Directives.
 - **Registered dietician** provides nutritional expertise.
 - **Trained volunteers** offer practical assistance, companionship and understanding to patients and families.
 - **Bereavement support** is provided to families and the community at large through counseling and support groups.
- Around-the-clock support is available from a registered nurse for urgent questions and concerns. If the concern cannot be resolved over the phone, then an on-call registered nurse will go to the patient’s home.
 - St. Francis Hospice offers two homelike inpatient facilities: the 12-bed Sister Maureen Keleher Center in Nuuanu; and the 24-bed Maurice J. Sullivan Family Hospice Center in Ewa Beach. These facilities are available for short-term stays, when patients’ conditions become unmanageable at home or when the caregiver needs respite care.
 - Specialized wound and skin care is available, provided by a certified wound specialist.
 - Hospice also provides prescription medications, durable medical equipment and supplies related to the terminal condition.



Other Services



St. Francis Hospice is Hawaii’s first and largest hospice program, nationally accredited by The Joint Commission. Accreditation confirms our commitment to quality service and excellence.