



“To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides.”

- *David Viscott*



Guide for Patients and Families

carealternatives
HOSPICE FOR THE LIFE WE LIVE

CARE ALTERNATIVES IS HOSPICE FOR THE LIFE WE LIVE LET US BE YOUR GUIDE THROUGH THE HOSPICE JOURNEY

Hospice is never an easy decision to make. At Care Alternatives, we understand the challenging situation you and your loved ones are facing and are committed to helping you embrace and manage each moment you encounter.

WHAT IS HOSPICE?

Hospice is a philosophy of providing comfort and compassion to all those affected by a terminal illness. Whether it is for a month or six months, our team of professionals will provide you and your loved one with medical care as well as emotional and spiritual support. Hospice can be provided *wherever* your loved one resides.

The goal of Hospice is to preserve dignity and emphasize the importance of Quality of Life. Our team of professionals will assist you in creating a meaningful chapter in your own book of life.

THE CARE ALTERNATIVES APPROACH

At Care Alternatives, we believe that Hospice is for the life we live, and that life should be lived – from its beginning to its end – fully and with great dignity.

Our holistic approach to Hospice incorporates three very distinct perspectives: *Mind, Body, and Spirit*. We integrate Aromatherapy, Massage Therapy, Reiki, Music Therapy, Pet Therapy and other alternative modalities to enhance the Hospice experience.

Our professionals understand that each person is unique and will create a customized care plan for your loved one.

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

We provide four levels of care for your loved one based on their individual needs:

Routine: The most common level of care provided in the home or in a healthcare setting

Respite: Provides short-term relief for caregivers by placing your loved one in a Nursing Facility for up to five days

Inpatient: Designed for short-term pain/symptom management; provided in a Hospital or Nursing Facility

Continuous Care: Designed for short-term pain/symptom management by providing one-on-one staff; provided in a home setting or Assisted Living Community

WHO IS HOSPICE FOR?

There are many circumstances which suggest a person's need for Hospice care including:

Alzheimer's Disease • Cancer • Cardiac Disease • Pulmonary Disease • Parkinson's Disease • Renal Disease • Liver Disease • CVA • ALS • HIV/AIDS

HOW IS HOSPICE PAID FOR?

Hospice is a Medicare and Medicaid benefit. In addition, most private insurance companies and HMOs offer a Hospice benefit, usually with no cost to the patient. Hospice coverage includes equipment, supplies and medications related to the Hospice diagnosis.

OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Providing the most comprehensive care - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – requires the dedication of a comprehensive team.

At Care Alternatives, our team of professionals includes:

Nurse Case Managers • Social Workers • Spiritual Counselors • Bereavement Counselors • Nutritional Counselors • Hospice Aides • Trained Volunteers • Medical Directors • On-Call availability 24 hours a day

COMFORTING YOUR FAMILY

The impact a Hospice situation has on your family is often very powerful. At Care Alternatives, our professionals are sensitive to not only the needs of your loved one, but to the needs of your family members as well.

We understand that each family member deals with a loved one's terminal illness differently. The comfort we provide to your family members must be individualized as well. We help them understand the progression of the patient's illness, and help you cope with your emotions. Our Bereavement Team will provide support to your family for up to 13 months beyond the course of your loved one's illness. We also offer support groups and memorial services to let you know that you are not alone.

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

If you are interested in learning more about our programs and services, please feel free to call us anytime at **1-866-821-1212** or visit us on the web at **www.carealt.com**. Our team of professionals will be happy to arrange an appointment to meet with you to discuss the advantages of using Care Alternatives Hospice.

