

Fact Sheet

Hospice of Lancaster County

- Hospice of Lancaster County is the oldest, largest and only not-for-profit hospice serving Lancaster County.
- Hospice of Lancaster County provides hospice and palliative care for nearly 50 percent of the total number of deaths in Lancaster County each year.
- Because of generous community support, the organization can provide quality care to anyone, regardless of the person's ability to pay.
- The Essa Flory Hospice Center houses 12 beds; most Hospice of Lancaster County patients receive care at home.
- Hospice of Lancaster County completed construction on a new facility in Mount Joy that houses 24 inpatient beds and the relocated PATHways Center for Grief & Loss. Currently two wings, eight beds each, are open.
- Average age of patient: 79 years old; serve patients of all ages.
- Website: www.hospiceoflancaster.org; seriousillness.org/Lancaster

What Is Hospice Care?

Hospice care focuses on comfort for adults, teens and children who have weeks or months rather than years to live. Hospice is for people with any serious illness, including heart and lung disease, cancer, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease. Care can be provided at home, nursing home, nursing facility, hospital or in one of two inpatient hospice centers.

When Is It Time for Hospice Care?

Here are some signs that a loved one may be ready for hospice care:

- An increase in pain, nausea, breathing distress or other symptoms
- Repeated hospitalizations or trips to the emergency room
- Failure to “bounce back” after medical setbacks occur
- Decrease in function requiring assistance for walking, eating, bathing, dressing and/or going to the toilet
- Decreasing alertness—patient is emotionally withdrawn, sleeping more or having increased difficulty with comprehension
- Significantly decreased appetite and weight loss

Often, your physician is the first to mention the possibility of hospice care, but some physicians hesitate to bring up hospice because they sincerely want to preserve hope for a cure. In other cases, such as with congestive heart failure or lung disease (COPD), it may be difficult for them to predict the rate of a patient's decline. When a doctor does mention hospice care, he or she is simply presenting an option for comfort, which in many cases may actually lengthen life by increasing the quality of the time remaining. It is important that you and your doctor talk openly and share the same goals for maintaining quality of life.

Hospice of Lancaster County Care Teams

Hospice of Lancaster County's Interdisciplinary Care Teams include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, chaplains, social workers and hospice aides.

PATHways Center for Grief & Loss

- The PATHways Center for Grief & Loss, Hospice of Lancaster County's bereavement program, offers services and programs to the entire community, regardless of whether a loved one is a Hospice of Lancaster County patient. The generous support of the community allows Hospice of Lancaster County to offer most grief and bereavement programs at no cost.
- The PATHways Center offers the following resources:
 - Individual or family consultation for adults, children and teens
 - Support groups for adults, families and teens
 - Grief retreats
 - *PATHways* bimonthly bereavement newsletter
 - Lending library of books and videos
 - Courses, workshops and seminars on grief and loss issues
- The PATHways Center for Grief & Loss has eight bereavement counselors, including Director Patti Anewalt.

Volunteering

- Hospice of Lancaster County has more than 1,000 volunteers.

Palliative Medicine Consultants at Hospice of Lancaster County

This group of physicians and nurse practitioners work with primary care physicians to restore a patient's quality of life by treating such painful symptoms as breathing difficulty, weakness, fatigue, nausea, bowel and bladder problems, anxiety, depression and insomnia.

Palliative Medicine Consultants has 14 physicians on staff, including Medical Director Joan Harrold, MD, MPH, FAAHPM, and four nurse practitioners.

