

# Hospice Care

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## WHAT IS IT?

- Care provided when someone is nearing the end of their life due to a terminal illness and has approximately six months or less to live. This timeline is only an approximate guideline as physicians cannot exactly predict how a disease will progress.
- Services can be provided in a private home, residential facility, hospital, or inpatient hospice facility.
- Hospice assists with getting appropriate medical equipment into the home such as hospital beds, wheelchairs, or oxygen. They also obtain other medical supplies such as wound dressings and medications. Types of staff employed by hospice agencies include physicians, nurses, home health aides, chaplains, social workers and many others.

## BENEFITS OF HOSPICE CARE

- Provides pain relief of various forms such as oral or IV administration.
- Supports not only the patient, but family through the process by providing staff on-call for assistance 24/7 and volunteers or staff who can provide companionship and sit with your loved one.
- Also offers spiritual support and grief/bereavement support through the process of dying, but also after your loved one has passed away.



## COST

- Medicare, Medicaid, and other private insurances typically cover the cost of hospice care.
- For detailed information about insurance coverage, the hospice agency selected can provide more details.

## PALLIATIVE CARE

- Palliative care is different than hospice care because palliative care provides pain management and treatment for other medical concerns while still trying to cure the primary condition an individual is suffering from.
- Palliative care can provide guidance and direction if treatments are not working and an individual wants to transition to hospice care.
- When dealing with dementia, palliative care can treat depression, delusions or aggressive behavior, problems with obtaining adequate nutrition, sleep difficulty, and much more.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Getting a palliative care or hospice consult helps to understand what services are provided. It allows both the individual and their family to ask questions and reduce fear and anxiety about the process.
- Many people delay going on hospice until they are near death when in fact hospice could have provided many benefits and improved quality of life had services been started sooner.

# HOSPICE PROVIDERS IN WEST MICHIGAN

Visit [rethinkingdementiami.org](https://rethinkingdementiami.org) and select "hospice care" underneath "medical experts" for a complete listing of all providers with more information.



Emmanuel Hospice

(616) 719-0919

<https://emmanuelhospice.org/>

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(616) 235-5113

<https://faithhospicecare.org/>

Also offers an inpatient hospice facility

**Trillium Woods**

8214 Pfeiffer Farms Drive SW

Byron Center, MI 49315

(616) 356-4820

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**Spectrum**  
Health

(616) 391-4250

<https://www.spectrumhealth.org/patient-care/hospice>