

If you are dealing with a life-threatening illness, you probably have more choices today than were available in recent years.

Modern medicine provides state-of-the-art treatments, medications and operative procedures. However, if you have decided that these treatments are not appropriate for you, it is reassuring to know that NorthShore University HealthSystem's Home and Hospice Services are available in your own home or long-term care facility.

NorthShore's Home and Hospice Services offer a compassionate and dignified alternative to high-tech hospital treatment and is dedicated to providing quality end-of-life care. Our staff also provides assistance, encouragement and bereavement support to families of hospice patients.

Who is eligible for hospice care?

You are eligible if your life expectancy is less than six months, you've discussed your options for care with your physician, and you've chosen symptom and pain management rather than chemotherapy or other treatments.

Our service area borders are from the Wisconsin border to North Avenue, and Lake Michigan to the eastern portions of McHenry and Kane Counties. We also provide hospice care for inpatients at NorthShore's Evanston, Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals.

What type of services are offered?

NorthShore's Hospice Services provide:

- Pain and symptom management.
- Care coordination with your private physician.
- Coordination of medical supplies, equipment and medication.
- Registered nurses on call 24 hours per day.
- Bathing and hygiene assistance.
- Emotional and spiritual support.
- Bereavement counseling and support groups.
- Volunteer services.

How do I pay for the services?

Medicare and Medicaid offer comprehensive benefits that cover hospice medical and support services related to your condition. We will bill them directly for your care. Additionally, most insurance companies and HMOs cover the Hospice Services and our staff will work directly with them to verify benefits and eliminate unnecessary paperwork.

What if I'm not ready for hospice care?

If you are still seeking treatment for your disease, you may be eligible for Home Health and/or Palliative Care. Please call us, and we can advise you as to what other services may be appropriate for you.

How do I get more information?

For more information regarding hospice care or any of our other home health services, please contact the Hospice Office at (847) 475-3002.