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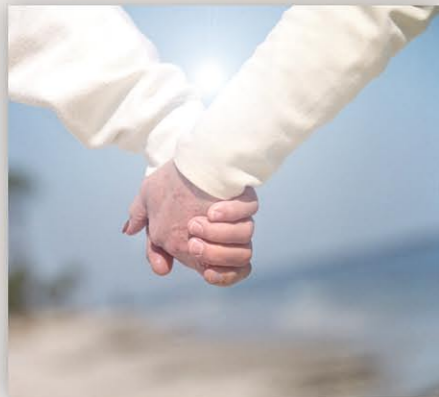
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SERVICE AREA

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When Hospice Can Help



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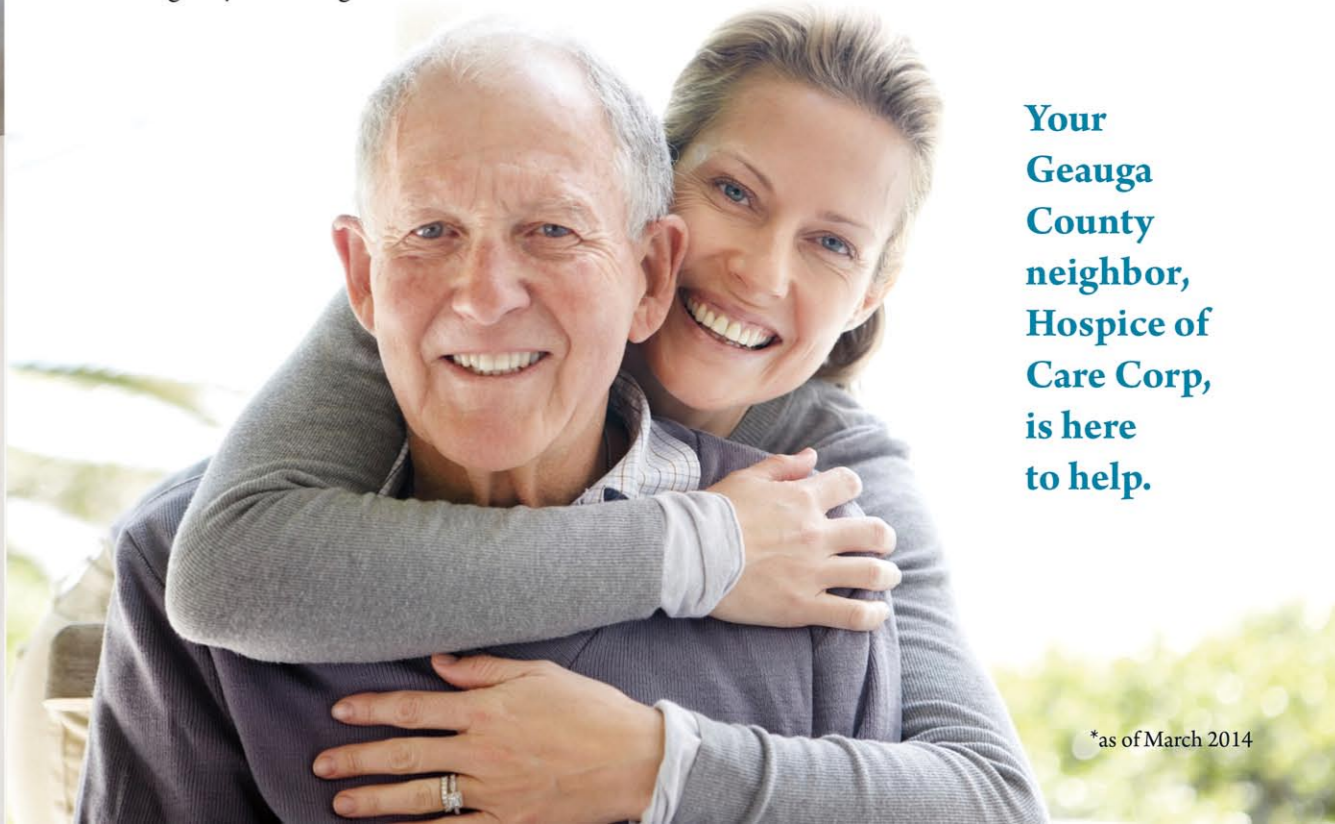


Facing a life-limiting illness is never easy. Feelings of being overwhelmed, confused, or fearful should not be part of the experience, because Hospice of Care Corp is here to help.

Hospice of Care Corp provides support and comfort for you or a loved one with a life-limiting illness. Gentle, compassionate professionals comprise the Hospice of Care Corp team. These supportive individuals are dedicated to providing the best possible care, including comfort and pain relief. Through our 29 years in delivering quality home health care, the Care Corporation staff has been asked countless questions about hospice care in general. In this brochure, we attempt to answer some commonly asked questions to help you to decide if hospice is right for you or your loved one.

Named as One of the Top 500 Home Health Agencies in the U.S.

Each year, the HomeCare Elite releases a list recognizing the top 25% of America's home health agencies. While thousands of agencies have occasionally found themselves on the list, Care Corp has been named among the HomeCare Elite every year for the past four years. This year, Care Corp was named as one of the TOP 500 agencies in the nation for the second year in a row. With roughly 11,000 Medicare-certified home health agencies in the U.S., the TOP 500 recognition puts Care Corp in the top 5% of home health agencies nationwide. Care Corp is the only TOP 500 agency in Geauga and Lake counties. *



Your Geauga County neighbor, Hospice of Care Corp, is here to help.

*as of March 2014



What is hospice?

Hospice involves comprehensive care to ensure the comfort and support of patients *and their families* when there is a life-limiting illness. Hospice care is delivered by a team of specialists with experience and expertise in end-of-life care.

Why hospice?

The hospice philosophy is that there is a lot of living to accomplish during all phases of life. With expert symptom management through hospice, patients can find dignity, meaning, and peace during their last months, weeks or even days of life.

Where is hospice delivered?

Hospice care is provided wherever a person calls "home." This includes a private home, apartment, assisted-living facility or nursing home. Our Hospice of Care Corp staff will be happy to make arrangements if an inpatient hospice setting is desired.

Who can refer a patient to hospice?

It is not necessary to wait for a doctor to suggest hospice. Anyone can refer a patient to hospice. Some patients refer themselves. *Feel free to ask your doctor about hospice care or contact Hospice of Care Corp directly at 440.286.CARE (2273) or 888.227.3811.*

When is it time for hospice?

It is time for hospice when a person is ready to focus on living fully at the end of his or her life. Many patients are referred too late to benefit fully from all the services offered through hospice. Generally, it is time for hospice when a patient is expected to live six months or less. Hospice of Care Corp suggests erring on the side of earlier access. If in doubt, call Hospice of Care Corp to discuss your personal situation.

What if I'm not sure I'm ready to stop curative treatments such as chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy?

It is common for patients and families to need time to accept the terminal status of their disease. We realize this and desire to provide whatever care and time is needed for reflection and acceptance. Care Corp offers a program called the "Bridge." In this program, palliative care is provided using a home health care focus.

Who is eligible for hospice?

There are no age or disease restrictions for hospice. Let's address a few common misconceptions. Many people associate hospice with cancer. Actually, only half of hospice patients have cancer. Heart disease; end-stage lung, kidney or liver disease; Alzheimer's; ALS; or any disease in a life-limiting phase are eligible for hospice. In addition, patients experiencing serious multi-symptom decline involving severe cases of poor nutrition, weight loss, inactivity and mental impairment (also referred to as "failure to thrive") are also eligible for hospice care.

Eligibility for hospice services must be certified by the patient's doctor as well as the hospice physician. Hospice of Care Corp works closely with the patient's physician in developing the hospice care plan.

What will hospice workers do?

The Hospice of Care Corp team's overwhelming goal is to see patients live with dignity and quality. Common hospice services include:

- Providing pain management and symptom control.
- Assessing and managing all physical symptoms related to the illness, such as pain, nausea, anxiety, fatigue or shortness of breath.
- Offering on-call availability to meet the needs of both patients and families. Our staff lives in Geauga County so we are close when you need us.
- Creating an individualized plan that will enable the patient and family to achieve their goals with dignity and peace.
- Helping the patient and family navigate through end-of-life decisions such as advance directives, do-not-resuscitate orders or funeral planning.
- Addressing emotional, spiritual and social aspects of coping with a serious illness.
- Honoring specific customs of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.
- Memorializing the patient's life through journaling.
- Providing bereavement support for family members.

Hospice of Care Corp is a family owned business serving Geauga County. We also share the same family values as our local friends and neighbors.

For more information or
to begin hospice services,
please call Care Corporation at
440.286.CARE (2273)
or **888.227.3811**

Who comprises the hospice team?

At Hospice of Care Corp, your physician remains a vital part of the team. Team members include the hospice medical director, registered nurses, licensed social workers, spiritual care director, home health aides, homemakers/ companions, bereavement coordinator, and volunteers. Physical, occupational and speech therapists as well as pet, music and massage therapists are also available.

This compassionate team works with the patient and family to set goals and keep the patient as comfortable and symptom-free as possible. Team members will visit the home on a schedule convenient for both the patient and family. In addition, Hospice of Care Corp's dedicated volunteers will be happy to visit with patients and give family members time for their other responsibilities. Support groups and counseling are also available to patients and their families during enrollment as well as during bereavement.

Who pays for hospice care?

Medicare pays 100% of allowable charges from Hospice of Care Corp, including charges for medications, durable medical equipment, medical supplies, respite care and inpatient care related to the hospice diagnosis. Most private insurance plans also offer hospice coverage. Hospice of Care Corp will work with the patient and family to resolve financial concerns.

