



QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN INTERVIEWING A HOSPICE COMPANY

There are many hospice companies in almost every neighborhood. Some are for profit, some are non profit. Some are owned by religious institutions, some are private. It is worth asking these questions as they all share some similarities in care of their patients, and then there are some differences. You want to be sure their values align with yours.

Listen for concern, kindness and thoughtful responses.

- How will the hospice staff work with me and my loved ones, and honor my wishes?
- How are family caregivers provided the information and training they need to care for me at home?
- Is respite care (relief for the caregiver/family) readily available?
- Are loved ones told what to expect in the dying process and what happens after I die?
- If I decide to voluntarily stop eating and drinking as I near death, will hospice support me and my family in that process?
- If I determine my suffering is too great, will hospice provide palliative sedation to keep me unconscious and comfortable until I die?
- Because I live in California, an authorized state for medical aid in dying, will this hospice support me and my family if I choose to pursue that option?
- Do they have physicians on staff who will write prescriptions for Medical Aid in Dying or be a Consulting Physician?
- Who will my family call after I die?
- Who will call the mortuary to come and pick up my body?
- What will happen if my care cannot be managed at home?
- What bereavement services are available for my family after I die?
- What is the role of my personal physician once hospice care begins? May I still see my own physician if I want to?
- How will the hospice physician oversee my care and work with my doctor?
- What services do volunteers offer?
- Will the hospice staff regularly discuss and routinely evaluate pain control and symptom management with me and my family?
- How quickly does the hospice staff respond to requests for additional pain medication? What is the process for that? Is there an emergency kit of medications on hand so I can get immediate relief after I call the hospice staff?