

# Choosing a Hospice

**We understand choosing a hospice for your loved one can be a very difficult process, thus we have gathered a list of questions you may want to ask when contacting hospices in your area.**

- What services does the hospice program provide?
- Is the hospice program certified by Medicare and licensed by the state? This is important to ensure that the program has all the required services and meets state laws.
- Will the program cover the cost of the patient's medications? Give the program a list of medications.
- Are hospice aides readily available from the hospice?
- Who is the hospice physician, and will he or she work with the patient's physician to provide care?
- What facilities does the hospice use for inpatient care? For respite care?
- Will volunteers be assigned to the case?
- If treatments such as radiation, chemotherapy, or blood transfusions are needed for symptom control, does the hospice provide this therapy?
- If the patient or family is unhappy with any aspect of the program, what will be done to address the problem?
- If this hospice program is chosen, how soon can services be started?
- Does this hospice program provide any support to the family after the patient dies?
- What does the hospice admission process include?
- How does the hospice manage pain?
- How are families involved in the patient's care?
- Who handles the paperwork for the insurance billing?
- Will this hospice program honor an advance directive?

