What is hospice?

Hospice provides specialized care to terminally ill patients and their loved ones in their own home or in a home-like setting such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Hospice is considered to be the model for high-quality, compassionate end of life care, providing expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support provided by a team of professionals and trained volunteers, putting the wishes of the patient and family at the center of care.

When is the right time to ask about hospice?
It is never too early to discuss hospice. Many feel that hospice is only for those who have weeks or days left of life, which does not allow the patient to receive the full potential of the benefits hospice can provide. If a patient qualifies, they can begin receiving the care they need now, helping reduce stress, and assuring the most comfort and quality of life possible.

How does the process begin?
Hospice care often begins with a referral, made by the patient’s doctor. A hospice program representative will visit the patient and their family when this request is made.

Is it affordable?
Yes, typically hospice is one of the least expensive forms of end-of-life care and is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, most private insurance plans and HMO’s.
About Pike County Hospice

Choosing hospice care does not mean you are giving up. Since 1993, Pike County Hospice has been dedicated to assisting patients and their families, focusing on comfort, the quality of life, and making the best of every moment.

We are Not-For-Profit - We are the only not-for-profit hospice in Pike County, and one of only 11 not-for-profits in our service area. Being a not-for-profit hospice means that we will not turn anyone away because of their inability to pay.

We are county based - In the state of Missouri there are only 4 registered county based hospice programs, and we are one of them. What does being county based mean? It means that while other organizations are governed by CEOs, ours is governed by a board of elected individuals from your community. These individuals care about their community members and do not receive any pay to do so. A majority of these board members have witnessed the amazing care offered by Pike County Hospice, and want to ensure this service continues.

We are your neighbors - Our staff is made up of the most caring individuals in our community. The majority of them have lived in the area their entire life, and still do. You can rest assured, if you need us at any time of day or night, we will be just a short distance away and arrive quickly.

We offer superior care during life and after loss

- 24/7 interdisciplinary team that consists of physicians, nurses, social workers, spiritual counselors, personal care aides, and professionally trained volunteers.
- Patient admission in less than 24 hours.
- Social visits such as board games, conversations, hair care, and more.
- Medically-managed pain and symptom control.
- Specialized and individually orchestrated plans of care.
- Emotional, social, and spiritual support for both the patient and loved ones.
- Information and education on what to expect.
- Back-up inpatient hospitalization at contracted hospitals.
- Provides Respite Care & helps reduce financial stress on the family.
- A Foundation that helps support special care items that may not be covered such as massage therapy, small comfort items and more.
- Provides special bereavement care to loved ones for up to 13 months after the patient’s death, as well as a monthly support group.

Making the choice that matters

Patients have the freedom to choose the hospice agency to which they will be referred. However, the choice of a hospice provider can be daunting. We are here to answer your questions and provide help and support during this difficult time.

Call us at (573) 324-2111.
Get more information on our care by visiting us on our website www.pikecountyhospice.com

“Words can not adequately express my appreciation to Pike County Hospice for helping with the care of my mother… Treatment was unsuccessful and the cancer had spread… Hospice was the extending hand of God’s Grace, giving us just what we needed. Whether it was nursing care, counsel, emotional support – they were there at a beckon call. I truly do not know how I made it through those weeks without the help of hospice… I commend your staff for their professionalism, but more importantly, to a family who might be facing a similar experience, Pike County Hospice loves and cares and they are there for you.” – K.A.