How do veterans get VA hospice services?
The veteran must:
- Have a life-limiting illness
- Seek comfort rather than cure
- Expect to live six months or less if the disease runs its normal course, as determined by a VA doctor
- Want hospice care

How do VA and community hospices work together?
- A VA doctor can refer a veteran to a community hospice or a community hospice can refer to VA
- Hospice and VA staff work together on the veteran's care
- Veterans can receive care from the hospice and VA at the same time

Enrolling in VA
- VA determines eligibility for VA benefits through enrollment
- Veterans must be enrolled in VA to receive VA benefits

For more information contact:
- Your County Veteran Service Officer
- VA Benefits Officer
- Veterans Service Organization

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What is the Medicare Hospice Benefit?
If you are eligible for Medicare Part A and meet hospice criteria, you can elect the Medicare Hospice Benefit. This benefit provides services to the veteran and his/her family through visits to where the patient and family call home.

Who provides hospice services?
- Medical doctors (veteran's own doctor and hospice doctor)
- Nurses
- Home health aides
- Social workers
- Chaplains and other counselors
- Therapists
- Trained volunteers
- Bereavement counselors

What other services are covered?
- Medications for the terminal illness
- Medical equipment and supplies related to the terminal illness
- On-call support 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Hospital care at a community hospital or VA facility with approval of the hospice team, for severe pain and symptoms
- Respite care for family when needed
- Grief support when sought by the patient/family before and/or after the patient's passing

What is hospice care?
- Quality compassionate care for people facing a life-limiting illness or injury
- Expert medical care, pain management and emotional/spiritual support tailored by the hospice team to meet the veteran's needs and wishes
- Support for veteran's family and friends

What is palliative care?
(pronounced PAL-lee-uh-tiv)
- Medical specialty for relief of pain and symptoms of serious illness
- Seeks to prevent/ease suffering and offer patients and families the best quality of life
- Can be used at any point in serious or life-threatening illness
- Not dependent on life expectancy
- Can be used with curative and life-prolonging treatment
Veterans have earned the best end-of-life care America can offer.

Learn how VA and New Jersey’s hospices can give the best end-of-life care for you and your family.

What are VA hospice policies?

- Hospice and palliative care are part of the VA Medical Benefits Package
- VA can provide hospice care directly or buy it from a community provider
- Veterans can choose VA-paid hospice or Medicare hospice
- Veterans who choose Medicare can also get VA health care and benefits at the same time

Who pays for hospice for veterans?

- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Private insurance companies

Where can veterans receive hospice care?

Wherever the veteran lives, including:
- Veteran’s own home
- VA hospital
- In a state veterans home
- In a community nursing home
- Senior housing

VA Contact Information

VISN 3 (northern New Jersey)
VA Medical Center Lyons
151 Knollcroft Road, Lyons, NJ 07939
908-647-0180
East Orange Campus
385 Tremont Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07018
973-676-1000

VISN 4 (southern New Jersey)
VA Medical Center Philadelphia
3900 Woodland Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-823-5800, request pager 271

VA Medical Center Wilmington
1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19805
302-994-2511

Web Resources

New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization - www.njhospice.org
- Find a hospice in New Jersey
- Information about hospice

VA - www.va.gov/health
- Information about veterans’ health care benefits available through VA
- Location of VA medical centers and Community-Based Outpatient Clinics

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization - www.nhpco.org
- General information about hospice
- National Hospice Veteran Partnership

Hospice Veteran Partnership of New Jersey
New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
175 Glenside Avenue
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-233-0060 / fax 908-233-1630
www.njhospice.org / info@njhospice.org