



What You Should Know...



Visit our web-site at:
www.oldcolonyhospice.org

One Credit Union Way – 4th floor
Randolph, MA 02368
781-341-4145

WHAT IS HOSPICE CARE?

Hospice is specialized care available to people with a life-limiting illness.

- ☆ Hospice care helps patients and families when they no longer desire aggressive care for their disease, or when curative treatment is no longer effective.
- ☆ Hospice does not focus on curing disease. It emphasizes pain and other symptom management through a team approach composed of nurses, social workers, physicians, dietitians, home health aides and highly trained volunteers.
- ☆ Hospice care provides medications and medical equipment such as movable beds & wheel chairs delivered right to your home.
- ☆ Old Colony Hospice employs a team of professionals including nurses, social workers and other counselors, home health aides to visit you at home.

*"The integrated team approach that Hospice provides addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their families."
- Beth, Old Colony Hospice Nurse*

*"Hospice" should mean angel because that's what you all are. I can't thank you enough for all you've done – not only for Joe - but for our entire family. You have truly touched our lives, and made Joe's last few months more enjoyable and easier on all of us.
- family memorial donor*

References:

-Hospice Directory. (2003-2005). Hospice Myths and Realities. Retrieved from, http://www.hospicedirectory.org/cm/about/choosing/myths_facts on December 4, 2007.

Stevens, L. Lynn, C & Glass, R. (2006) Palliative Care. The Journal of the American Medical Association. 296 (11), 1428. Retrieved on 11.20.2007, from www.jama.com.

OLD COLONY HOSPICE WISHES TO THANK THE SIMMONS COLLEGE OF NURSING STUDENTS FOR THEIR COLLABORATION ON THIS BROCHURE

Old Colony Hospice is the largest non-profit hospice in southeastern Massachusetts, serving over 800 patients and their families each year.

If you would like to arrange a free informational visit or have any questions about how Old Colony Hospice can help you, please call us at **781-341-4145**.

MISCONCEPTIONS

Myth: Hospice means that the patient will soon die.

- ✓ **FACT:** The earlier an individual receives hospice care, the more opportunity there is to stabilize a patient's medical condition and address other needs. Receiving hospice care does not mean giving up hope. It is in fact hope for a peaceful death.

Myth: Hospice is a place.

- ✓ **FACT:** Hospice care most often takes place at the individual's home, but can be provided in a nursing home, hospital, assisted living facility, or residential care facility.

"Hospice is more about the last six months than the last few days of life. The sooner you call us, the sooner we can help you."

*Madeline O'Reilly, MS, CHPN
Director of Clinical Services
Old Colony Hospice*

Myth: Families have to pay for hospice care.

- ✓ **FACT:** Old Colony Hospice **DOES NOT** charge any co-pays amounts.
- ✓ **FACT:** Hospice is a Medicare & Medicaid benefit. Most private insurers also cover hospice care.

ABOUT HOSPICE

Myth: Patients have to give up their own doctor.

- ✓ **FACT:** Patients may keep their own physician, who will work closely with the Hospice team.

Myth: Hospice is only for cancer patients.

- ✓ **FACT:** Hospice patients may have a wide range of conditions including congestive heart failure, Alzheimer's, dementia, chronic lung disease, AIDS, liver failure etc.

Myth: After six months, regardless of the patient's condition, hospice is stopped.

- ✓ **FACT:** As long as a patient continues to meet criteria, hospice is continued. Some patients have lived a year or more.

Myth: Patients need to have Do Not Resuscitate orders.

- ✓ **FACT:** Not all patients have DNR orders.

Myth: The patient must be homebound in order to receive care.

- ✓ **FACT:** Eligibility is based on having a life-limiting illness. Patients may function independently and receive hospice care. Some patients are still golfing or working.

CARE

Myth: Hospice moves into your home to provide care.

- ✓ **FACT:** Old Colony Hospice staff are available 24 hrs a day ~7 days a week to answer questions and make visits. We do not move into your home and live with you.

Myth: Patients cannot go to the Emergency Room.

- ✓ **FACT:** Hospice should always be called first if things change at home. The hospice can make arrangements for you to be taken to the ER if necessary.

Myth: Hospice is just for the patient.

- ✓ **FACT:** Old Colony Hospice focuses on both the patient and the caregivers to maintain the highest quality of life.

