

ABOUT US

Good Shepherd Hospice provides comprehensive care and compassion to individuals with a life limiting or terminal illness and their loved ones.

Hospice is a philosophy of care, not a specific place. Although Hospice services may take place in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or an assisted living residence, care is most often given in the patient's or family member's home. Hospice care is focused on patient comfort in an environment that affirms life and dignity. It includes a whole network of professionals and services coordinated by a team of professional caregivers working in conjunction with the patient's primary care physician. This multidisciplinary approach ensures the delivery of high quality physical, psychological and spiritual care throughout the entire process.

With hospice, nobody ever has to feel that they are alone. We offer ongoing outreach, educational and supportive programs to the bereaved community. Good Shepherd Hospice is accessible to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, lifestyle or economic status by calling **(631) 474-4422**.

Hospice services are reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid and most health insurance plans for both home care and in-patient care. We rely on donations from organizations and individuals to continue to provide care to those in need.

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**GOOD
SHEPHERD
HOSPICE**

**Hospice
Short-Term
Inpatient Care**

*A general overview
regarding hospital care
for Hospice patients...*



GOOD SHEPHERD HOSPICE

A member of Catholic Health Services of Long Island

Hospice Short-term Inpatient Care

When a loved one is admitted to a Hospice program it is understandably a difficult time, fraught with many emotions. The Hospice team understands this and is available to answer questions and provide support.

This brochure will outline possible causes for a Hospice patient to be admitted and what to consider during the patient's hospitalization in order to ensure a timely discharge when appropriate.

What Factors are Considered when Admitting a Patient to a Hospital?

Pain Requiring:

- ✓ Complicated technical delivery of medication requiring a Registered Nurse for calibration, tubing changes, or site care.
- ✓ Frequent evaluation by physician/nurse
- ✓ Aggressive treatment to control pain
- ✓ Frequent medication adjustment
- ✓ Transfusions for symptom relief

Possible Causes for Hospitalization, Continued...

Symptom Changes:

- ✓ Sudden deterioration requiring intensive nursing intervention
- ✓ Uncontrolled nausea and vomiting
- ✓ Pathological fractures
- ✓ Respiratory distress which becomes unmanageable
- ✓ Open lesions needing frequent skilled care
- ✓ Traction and frequent repositioning requiring more than one staff member
- ✓ Complex wound care requiring complex dressing changes
- ✓ New and/or worsening delirium or agitation

Psychological and Social Problems Such as:

- ✓ Acute anxiety, fear of dying and/or depression requiring intensive nursing interventions
- ✓ Collapse of family support requiring intensive skilled care in other than the home environment

Patient/family teaching:

- ✓ Complex medications, treatments, etc.

Imminent death:

- ✓ Requiring skilled nursing care for pain or symptom management due to a breakdown in the home support system.



GOOD SHEPHERD HOSPICE

Discharge Planning

When a Hospice patient is receiving care in a hospital setting it is our goal to effectively manage the patient's symptoms and maximize their quality of life.

Inpatient care however, is not an appropriate long term plan. Once the patient's symptoms are effectively managed, and the physician feels the patient no longer needs to be hospitalized, the hospice social worker will work with you and the patient on a discharge plan. The Hospice social worker and nurse will be available to meet with you and discuss possible care options for the patient. Each situation is unique and it is our goal that each discharge plan be individualized.

Some Important Questions to Consider during Hospitalization

1. Would the patient's needs be met at home?
2. Are there family and friends available to provide care at home?
3. Are there financial resources available to hire caregivers to come into the home?

Source for Hospice Patient Hospital Admission guidelines: The CMS Hospice Manual, Publication 21, §230,1 P.