**What is palliative care?**

Palliative care is an approach to care which aims to relieve suffering and improve the quality of living and dying. The palliative care team can help people to address physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and practical issues that may be experienced as a result of illness. The palliative approach may be incorporated at any stage in a person’s illness.

**What is hospice care?**

In the Calgary Zone, hospice care refers to a specialized health care setting that provides 24 hour palliative care to individuals nearing the end of life.

The hospice team includes physicians, nurses, social workers, spiritual care staff, health aides, and volunteers. Family and friends are welcomed as part of this team to whatever extent they are comfortable. Care and compassion is extended to both the individual and the loved ones with an awareness that every person’s journey is unique.

When remaining at home is no longer possible, and a hospital admission is no longer required, your care provider might suggest moving to hospice for palliative care as the most suitable alternative.

Choosing hospice care is a way of redefining hope and choosing to live as fully as possible in a supportive environment.

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Although we struggled with the idea of our Mom spending her final days in Hospice, we were comforted knowing she was in a place that allowed such peace.

The love and compassion I felt from everyone was overwhelming.

I believe his time there was so precious and special because we were able to be with him as a family.

When we entered the front door, it felt like we were entering a very special place.

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Our Mission  

The mission of the hospice team is to promote dignity and individuality at end of life through holistic comfort care in a peaceful environment.
How to access hospice in the Calgary Zone

Alberta Health Services (AHS) Calgary Zone provides hospice care through several contracted organizations at various locations throughout the greater Calgary area.

Once the decision has been made that hospice would best meet your or your loved one’s needs, you will be asked to identify at least three hospices from the list provided. Identifying more than three hospice sites may help to minimize your wait time. Please be advised that your clinical circumstances may mean that specific hospices are better choices to meet your care needs.

Your Palliative Care provider will assist you in the hospice placement process.

Do not hallucinate.

What are the costs associated with hospice care?

There is no daily accommodation fee charged to the individual or family for hospice care.

Oxygen

• Oxygen and oxygen equipment are provided to individuals in hospices by home oxygen companies.

• If you or your loved one have previously been using home oxygen, every effort will be made to continue with your same vendor. The hospice will notify the home oxygen company of your move.

• Individuals are responsible for the cost of their oxygen and oxygen supplies while in hospice. Some or all of these costs may be covered by Alberta Health or your private insurance.

Pharmacy

• Pharmacy services are provided to individuals in hospices by contracted community pharmacies.

• Individuals who are registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan are eligible for the Alberta Blue Cross Palliative Coverage Program. This program provides premium-free prescription medication coverage with no waiting period.

• With the Palliative Coverage Program, individuals are responsible for 35% of the cost of drugs to a maximum of $50 per prescription annually. The lifetime maximum that the individual pays is $2,000.

• Items that are not covered by the Palliative Coverage Program include infusion equipment/supplies, over the counter medications, diabetic supplies (excluding insulin) and pharmacy dispensing fees.

Other Services

• Hospice does not provide physician, occupational therapy, or physical therapy.

• Individuals are responsible for costs and possible adverse effects of complementary care such as alternative medicines, acupuncture, chiropractic care, massage, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy (please check with the hospice team before engaging in any of the above therapies).

• Ambulance transportation costs may be the responsibility of the individual, unless they are being transported from or to an acute care hospital.

• Please check with your health care provider to see if there will be a cost for your transportation to hospice.

• Please note, additional costs may be involved with panning, phone rentals, guest rooms, guest meals, etc.

Smoking

• Hospice staff and volunteers cannot accompany individuals to smoke.

Transfers

• Hospice care is highly specialized. In some circumstances, an individual’s care needs change and hospice is no longer the most appropriate care setting. In these situations the individual will be re-assessed for transfer to a more suitable location or program where he/she can access the right care for their needs. These transfers are usually to home or a care facility (e.g. Long Term Care or Supported Living).

Pharmacy

www.health.alberta.ca/services/drugs-pharmacy-drug-program

Other Services

www.intercarealberta.com

Agape Hospice (InterCare)
P: 403‐824‐6568 www.agapehospice.com

Beresford Hospice (Carewest)
3666 Sarcee Road SW P: 403‐294‐5196 www.carewest.ca

Chinook Hospice (InterCare)
561 Eau Claire Trail SW P: 403‐544‐0500 www.intercarealberta.com

Southwood Hospice (InterCare)
211 Heritage Drive SE P: 403‐241‐0610 www.intercarealberta.com

Dulcina Hospice (Covenant Care at St. Marguerite Manor)
110 Evanston Manor NE P: 403‐252‐0620 www.covenantcare.ca

Foothills Hospice (Foothills Community Hospice Society)
322001-32nd St. E. Municipal District of Foothills No. 31, Alberta P: 403‐746‐4875 www.countryhospice.org

Near Okotoks, approximately 25 km south of Calgary. See website for driving directions.