

HOSPICE OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

For over 42 years, Hospice of San Luis Obispo County (Hospice SLO County), a volunteer hospice, has provided county-wide, non-medical in-home respite care, emotional support, practical assistance, and comfort to individuals, their families, and caregivers who are coping with a life-limiting illness.

VOLUNTEER HOSPICE STANDARDS

- Provide free services to all clients.
- Offer services in partnership with all health care agencies in the community and is not exclusive to any one.
- Provide an organized program of bereavement care to the survivors of clients served, and to any others in the community who are dealing with grief issues and request assistance regardless of when or how the death occurred.
- Provide community education regarding dying, death, grief, and end of life.

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

VOLUNTEER HOSPICE

- May be self-referred.
- Patients may enter at any time after diagnosed with a life limiting illness. Patient and families may continue with services as long as there is a need and resource.
- Patients may continue to receive curative and experimental medical care and treatments.
- Non-Medical focus. Physicians, nursing services, and medications not provided. Patients remain under the medical care of their own physician.
- There is no billing, clients are not charged for services, and no insurer is billed. The cost of care is supported by community donations and fundraisers.
- Focus on providing emotional comfort and companionship for client and respite care for the caregiver, with 24/7 End-of-Life Doula support in the final days.
- Professional and Hospice trained volunteers provide all in-home services. Paid staff train and supervise volunteers, programs, and services.
- Does not provide any medical or nursing care and does not require a license.
- The State Attorney General Monitors Operations.

MEDICALLY CERTIFIED HOSPICE

- Requires a physician referral.
- Patients admitted within 6 months of their expected end of life, often invoked within the last 2-3 weeks of life.
- Patients must discontinue curative treatment. Focus is on comfort (palliative care).
- Nursing and medical care is under direction of hospice physician and medical care is focused on pain and anxiety control and comfort.
- Medicare or private insurance companies are billed by the provider.
- Focus on providing medical aide and physical comfort at end-of-life.
- Majority of services provided by paid staff including: Nurses, Physical Therapists, Social Workers, Aides, Music, and Spiritual Support. Some in-home volunteer support.
- Licensed by Medicare and must follow stringent guidelines.



For more information, please contact
HospiceSLO.org or (805) 544-2266
Hospice SLO County

1304 Pacific Street | San Luis Obispo CA 93401