

Misconceptions about Hospice

Lets look at some common misconceptions to help us identify the real thing from the fake

Misconception # 1 Many folks seem to think that Hospice is where you go when there is "nothing else to be done."

In reality however: Hospice is actually the "something more" that can be done for the patient and the family when the illness cannot be cured.

It is a concept based on comfort-oriented care. Referral into hospice is simply a movement into another mode of therapy, which may be more appropriate for terminal care.

Hospice care is about helping patients live each day of their lives to the fullest extent possible, and providing support to both patients and families.

Hospice care usually takes place in the comfort of your home, but can be provided in any environment in which you live, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and residential care facilities.

Receiving hospice care does not mean giving up hope or that death is imminent. The earlier an individual receives hospice care, the more opportunity there is to stabilize your medical condition and address other needs.

Misconception # 2 Most people, I believe, have the idea that you must have cancer before you can get into the program yet the truth, is a large number of hospice patients have congestive heart failure, dementia, chronic lung disease, or other conditions.

Misconception # 3 Another idea that seems to float around is, once a patient is admitted to a hospice program, he/she cannot choose to leave.

Remember I said earlier that Hospice is trained to **empower**.

Part of that empowerment is that patients may indeed choose to leave or revoke the program and seek more aggressive treatment.

Some patients actually improve and may be discharged from Hospice care but can come back in later when or if needed or desired

Misconception # 4 Hospice means giving up hope.

When faced with a terminal illness, many patients and family members tend to dwell on the imminent loss of life rather than on making the most of the life that remains. Yet in reality, Hospice helps patients reclaim the spirit of life.

It helps them understand that even though death can lead to sadness, anger, and pain, it can also lead to opportunities for looking back, laughter, reunion, hope, and building even more memories for your loved ones

In other words, Hospice helps the family be able to live with the comfort, assurance and memory that they did all they could to let their loved ones maintain their dignity

Hospice helps the patient enjoy the comfort of their personal surroundings with those they love and who love them, instead of an impersonal setting surrounded by people who have a job to do instead of a ministry to perform,

Hospice also helps the patient to employ and enjoy their independence, pride and dignity for as long as they can during those final months of life

For further assistance ask your family physician about Hospice.

To make a referral to help your loved one because you care call

Caring Community Hospice of Cortland 607.753.9105

Or visit www.cortlandhospice.org