

## Hospice services

- Hospice reaffirms the right of every person and family to participate fully in the final stages of life.
- An assigned nurse makes regular visits, evaluates the patient's condition and talks regularly with the patient's physician about appropriate continuing treatment. The nurse teaches family and friends to be caregivers and to manage pain and other symptoms.
- A nurse is on call 24 hours a day, every day of the week.
- Professional home care aides change beds and provide personal care, such as bathing, shaving, nail care and shampooing.
- Social workers help to resolve psychological and emotional problems, arrange for delivery of community services and provide support for both patient and family.
- Trained volunteers are available to assist in patient care, to help with household activities or to stay with the patient so that caregivers can go shopping, enjoy social engagements, or have free time.
- A chaplain consults with and assists the patient and family in their spiritual concerns, complementing the patient's own minister when appropriate.
- Bereavement counselors help the family through the 13-month transition period following the patient's death. Hospice provides educational home visits as well as periodic written correspondence and phone calls. Grief workshops also are available.

## Volunteers

The scope of services Green River Hospice offers is greatly expanded by trained and compassionate volunteers. Hospice volunteers receive specialized training to assist primary caregivers with care and support of patients and their families. Volunteers also serve in a wide range of administrative support services. Training is provided regularly throughout the tri-county service area at no cost to volunteers. To become a Green River Hospice volunteer, please call 270.326.4660 or 800.350.3486. We would love to share the hospice experience with you.

Hospice also serves the community by providing educational programs and presentations to inform the public about the needs of the dying and about Green River Hospice Services. Our hospice staff is available to speak to your church, civic or professional group.



## The Hospice Philosophy

Hospice affirms life. The program exists to provide support and care for persons in the last phase of a life-limiting disease. Hospice is dedicated to providing exceptional services to end-of-life patients and families with a total commitment of providing high quality care. Hospice focuses primarily on comfort and support by maximizing a patient's quality of life in their final days.



# Green River HOSPICE

**Serving Hopkins, Muhlenberg  
and McLean Counties**

## Green River Hospice

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## Our Mission

Green River Hospice is a non-profit organization dedicated to the provision of comprehensive, palliative care to persons who are in the final stage of a life-limiting illness. By providing a team approach to meeting physical, emotional and spiritual concerns, patients and their families may prepare for death in a way that is satisfactory to them. By focusing on the quality of life, Green River Hospice affirms life and neither hastens nor postpones death. By education and example, Green River Hospice hopes to enhance the lives of all the individuals in our community, and to serve as a symbolic reminder that death is a part of life. Our staff is committed to providing exceptional care and support to our patients and their families.

## Our Focus

Hospice provides:

- Patient dignity
- Palliative, comfort care
- Pain control
- Psychosocial and emotional support
- Spiritual care as requested
- Quality of life
- Bereavement service for families and loved ones

## About Hospice

Green River Hospice, serving Hopkins, Muhlenberg and McLean counties since 1989, provides a very special kind of caring for persons with life-limiting illness, their families and loved ones. Green River Hospice is affiliated with the Trover Health System, and has contractual arrangements with hospitals, nursing facilities and other organizations throughout the tri-county. This enables us to provide our patients with a wide range of health and support services designed to meet a variety of unique needs. One of our primary objectives is to provide our patients the opportunity to remain in their own homes or in homelike settings, and to maintain a strong emphasis on quality of life.

## Who is eligible for hospice care?

Hospice services are available to anyone who:

- Has a prognosis, in the opinion of an attending physician, of six months or less life expectancy.
- Resides or is able to reside within our tri-county service area of Hopkins, Muhlenberg and McLean counties.
- Has made a decision with his or her attending physician to seek quality of life and comfort rather than curative care.
- Has a competent person willing to be trained in hospice care and to take responsibility for his/her primary care when he/she is unable to do so.\*
- Agrees to the course of care established in the Hospice Plan of Care between Green River Hospice, the patient, family and the attending physician.

*\* Patients with no primary caregiver will be considered individually.*

## Hospice interdisciplinary team

Green River Hospice interdisciplinary team includes:

- Physicians
- Registered nurses
- Social workers
- Chaplains
- Certified Nursing Assistants
- Volunteers
- Ancillary healthcare staff, including physical, occupational and speech therapists

## Availability of hospice care

Green River Hospice services are available:

- 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- For patients and their families without regard to age, gender, nationality, race, creed, sexual orientation, disability or ability to pay
- For any recognized cancer and non-cancer terminal diagnosis including:
  - Alzheimer's Disease
  - Parkinson's Disease
  - Lung Disease
  - Cardiovascular Diseases
  - Renal Diseases
  - Diabetes Mellitus
  - AIDS
  - Liver Diseases
  - Failure to thrive
  - Cancers of all categories
  - Other terminal conditions

Patients with multiple medical problems resulting in a terminal prognosis are appropriate for hospice care even if a single diagnosis alone does not represent a terminal prognosis.

## Alternative settings

Green River Hospice strives to enable patients to remain in their own homes or in private residences whenever possible. However, when this is not feasible, hospice care is provided in alternate settings including:

- Nursing homes
- Skilled nursing facilities

Patients residing in one of these alternative settings will receive the same hospice care and support as those residing in their own homes.

## Patient referrals

Patient referrals are most frequently made by private physicians; however, anyone may refer a patient to Green River Hospice including the patient, family members, neighbors, or friends. Upon referral to Green River Hospice, a consultation will be made. The consultation will consist of explaining services, determining eligibility and answering questions. After a decision is made by the patient and family to be admitted to Green River Hospice, a plan of care will be developed between Hospice, the patient, the family and the attending physician.