

American Legion & Hospice

Who are we?

- Accredited health care organization to provide specialized care for patients nearing the end of life
- Comprehensive, holistic care aimed at comfort – medications, wound care, equipment, multi-disciplined
- Focus on quality of life, empowering patients and families

What do we do?

- Provide tailored, specialized care in the home
 - Nurses, bath aide, social worker, chaplain
 - Cover medications as appropriate
 - Medical equipment supplied as appropriate
- Known for ethics of honesty, provide training and education to families to help manage symptoms in the home or long term care setting
- Assist families to keep their loved ones safe, comfortable, and living life on their terms
- For many patients, life expectancy actually increases with hospice admission

Who pays for hospice?

- Variety of sources, including VA, Medicare, Medicaid, most private insurances
- We take indigent patients as we are able to do so

Who will benefit from using us?

- Folks who wish to focus on *how* rather than *when* Those who wish to avoid the hospital or trips back and forth to the doctor
- Those who have adequate caregiving support in the home or facility
- ***Hospice is not about giving up, it's about giving hope. It's not about removing choices; it's about respecting wishes. It's not about being left to die; it's about getting the most out of life, and about dying well. We all die. We don't all die well. Hospice can help with that***

How does someone qualify for hospice?

- Diagnosis and referral comes from physician
- When curative therapy is no longer possible, advisable, or desirable
 - There are benefits to cutting out aggressive treatments
 - Medical care needs change. It's about getting the right type of care at the right time.
- Start a conversation with your family, with your doctor, call us for more information **766-2580**

How are we involved in caring for our Veterans?

- Participate in "We Honor Vets" program, including effort to ensure No Vet Dies Alone.
- Strive to honor and recognize their service and impacts it may have on healthcare needs

What are the benefits of volunteering?

- Sense of satisfaction
- "pay it forward"
- Many veterans are private, selective on whom they allow in
- Unshakeable pre-formed bond between servicemen and women
- Easy. Requires some training, but no direct patient care is allowed

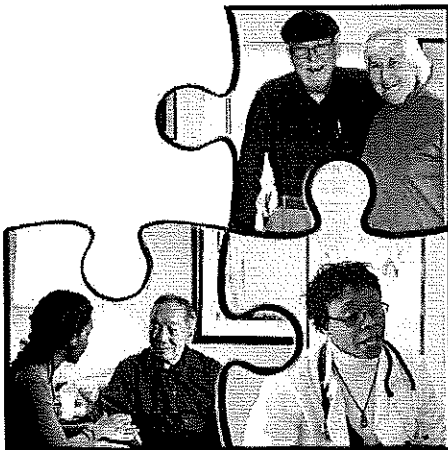
Veteran Shared Decision Making Worksheet

Veteran



- Use this Worksheet as you consider your needs and preferences for long term services and supports.
- Visit www.va.gov/Geriatrics to learn more about long term services and supports in VA and the community.
- Talk with your caregiver or family support person about this Worksheet.
- Use this Worksheet in discussions with your social worker and care team about the long term services and supports that are best for you.

Caregiver



Social Worker

Care Team

Your eligibility is based on clinical need and service or setting availability.

www.va.gov/Geriatrics



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Step 1. Consider Needs

<p>What do you need help with?</p>	<p>I need help to: <i>(Check any that apply)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Eat, get dressed, bathe, go to the toilet or get around the house. <input type="checkbox"/> Do chores such as fixing meals, paying bills and shopping. <input type="checkbox"/> Get care that requires a nurse or therapist. <input type="checkbox"/> Check my blood pressure or blood sugar, keep track of medical visits or fill my pill box. <input type="checkbox"/> Deal with my drug or alcohol issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Deal with my mental health concerns. <input type="checkbox"/> Make decisions and remember things I need to do. <input type="checkbox"/> Do social things with family or friends. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<p>Who helps you?</p>	<p>I have help from: <i>(Check any that apply)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> My spouse or partner. <input type="checkbox"/> Family member or friend who lives with me. <input type="checkbox"/> Family members or friends who come over to help me. <input type="checkbox"/> Paid caregiver. <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have any regular help.
<p>Where do you want to live?</p>	<p>I want to live: <i>(Check only one)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In my home because that is the most important thing to me. <input type="checkbox"/> In my home, if my health needs are met. <input type="checkbox"/> In my home, but it is not best for me now. <input type="checkbox"/> In a different home, but closer to VA services and supports. <input type="checkbox"/> In a different place where I can receive more care.

Step 2. Explore Options

Long term care options I would consider are:

(Check your choices – to learn more, click on the links below or go to www.va.gov/Geriatrics)

Options at my home

- Adult Day Health Care
- Home Based Primary Care
- Homemaker/Home Health Aide
- Hospice Care
- Palliative Care
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Respite Care
- Skilled Home Health Care
- Telehealth
- Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services

Options in a residential setting

- Adult Family Home
- Assisted Living
- Community Residential Care
- Domiciliary Care
(in a State Veterans Home)
- Medical Foster Home

Options at a nursing home

- Community Living Center
(VA Nursing Home)
- Community Nursing Home
- State Veterans Home

I chose these options because it is important to:

(Examples: stay at home, be close to friends/family, have help at night)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Step 3. Involve Others

Who is involved in your long term care planning?

People that help me make decisions about long term care are: *(Check any that apply)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse or partner | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse care manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family member/friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary care provider (physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social worker/case manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health provider | _____ |

People who agree with my favorite long term care option(s) are:

People who disagree with my favorite long term care option(s) are:

Long term care options we agree could be right for me are:

(Check your choices – to learn more, click on the links below or go to www.va.gov/Geriatrics)

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Step 4. Take Action

- Use the *www.va.gov/Geriatrics* website
- Talk with my care team about my health needs
- Talk with my mental health provider about my care needs
- Talk with my social worker about getting long term care services
- Get support from my family and friends
- Write down my questions and bring them with me to my next visit
- Other: _____

Questions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Bring to your next visit:

- This Worksheet after you fill it out
- The Caregiver Self-Assessment Worksheet
- A list of your questions
- Someone who can support you

Care Team or Social Worker contact:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Hospice Care



What is Hospice Care?

Hospice Care is comfort care provided to you and your family if you have terminal condition, with less than 6 months to live, and are no longer seeking treatment other than palliative care.

Hospice Care can be provided at home, in an outpatient clinic or in an inpatient setting.

Am I eligible for Hospice Care?

Since **Hospice Care** is part of the VHA Standard Medical Benefits Package, all *enrolled Veterans* are eligible **IF they meet the clinical need for the service**.

There are **NO COPAYS** for Hospice Care whether it is provided by the VA or an organization with a VA contract.

Find out more by visiting the Paying for Long Term Care section at www.va.gov/Geriatrics.

What services can I get?

Hospice Care provides services that relieve suffering and help control symptoms in a way that respects your personal, cultural, and religious beliefs and practices.

Hospice Care also provides bereavement support to your family. You and your family meet with a care team to develop a plan of care together that meets your medical, social, spiritual and psychological needs.

How do I decide if it is right for me?

You can use a **Shared Decision Making Worksheet** to help you figure out what long term care services or settings may best meet your needs now or in the future.

There's also a **Caregiver Self-Assessment**. It can help your caregiver identify their own needs and decide how much support they can offer to you. Having this information from your caregiver, along with the involvement of your care team and social worker, will help you reach good long term care decisions.

Ask your social worker for these Worksheets or download copies from the **Shared Decision Making** section at www.va.gov/Geriatrics.

Hospice Care

Your physician or other primary care provider can answer questions about your medical needs. Some important questions to talk about with your social worker and family include:

- How much assistance do I need for my activities of daily living (e.g., bathing and getting dressed)?
- What are my caregiver's needs?
- How much independence and privacy do I want?
- What sort of social interactions are important to me?
- How much can I afford to pay for care each month?

Talk with your VA social worker about Hospice Care.



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