

## **TRUTH BELIEF** Hospice care is not reserved for a single age group. Rather, it is for anyone who has re-**Hospice care** ceived a prognosis of six months or less and a referral from a physician. While many hosis only for the pice patients are older, anyone who meets these two elderly. requirements is able to enter hospice. Hospice care is only offered Hospice care is offered wherever the patient considers "home." While this could be in a in hospitals and retirement home or assisted living facility, often hospice care is given in a patient's own retirement home or a family member's home. homes. Hospice patients are able to receive treatment for any ailment that is separate from the Hospice care terminal ilness for which they were admitted to hospice. If a health issue arises that a forbids patients hospice care professional cannot manage at home, hospice patients are able to go to the from receiving any hospital. Further, if a hospice patient contracts an infection and would like to take antibiother form of otics, he is certainly able to do so. treatment. Hospice care is a program of care while palliative care is a philosophy of care. Palliative care is focused on symptom management and treatment and can be utilized by any in-Hospice care dividuals with life-threatening illnesses, regardless of prognosis. Hospice care programs is the same as contain palliative care, but are highly focused on comfort and are only offered to individpalliative care. uals who meet specific requirements. If a person has a prognosis of over six months, he cannot enter hospice care. Although patients often remain in hospice care until the end of life, they do not have to. If Hospice care a new treatment becomes available that the patient wants to try, he can decide to leave is permanent. hospice and pursue that treatment. Hospice patients in such a position often make the decision to switch to palliative care instead. Hospice care does not mean no longer fighting. Because it's not binding, many patients do continue to look for new treatments even while in hospice. Regardless of whether or Hospice care not a patient chooses to continue to pursue treatment, though, entering hospice does not is giving up. mean defeat. It means allowing healthcare professionals to provide the patient and the patient's family the assistance and comfort that they both need and deserve.



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