



"What surprises people most [about hospice] is the sense of relief — that hospice isn't about giving up, but about finally getting the help they've needed all along. Families often say, *"I wish we had started sooner."* They're surprised by how much comfort, attention, and support they receive — not just for the patient, but for everyone involved."

- Hospice Provider



calhospice.org
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Since 1986, the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association (CHAPCA) has improved access to quality end-of-life care and educated patients, families, the community, and healthcare professionals about hospice and palliative care.

CHAPCA envisions a future where every patient and family is aware of hospice and palliative care services and has access to them. It is our mission to support the Association members by providing high quality hospice and palliative care services to patients and their caregivers and to provide leadership in advocating on behalf of hospice and palliative care in California.

**Learn more, become a
member, or make a donation
at calhospice.org**

**HOSPICE
CAN HELP**

**Hospice provides
comfort, dignity, choice,
and control at end-of-
life for both patients
and their families.**



CHAPCA

What is hospice?

Hospice is an end-of-life service provided wherever you call home — whether that's your house, assisted living, or a nursing home. Hospice is a form of palliative care designed for end-of-life comfort. **Rather than focusing on a cure, hospice centers the quality of life for both you and/or the person you care for.**

Who qualifies for hospice?

Hospice is a **personal choice** and is recommended if you or the person you care for has received a terminal diagnosis, has frequently been hospitalized, and/or is physically or mentally declining.

When should we contact hospice?

Hospice care can help sooner than **many families realize**. While many begin hospice in the final days or hours of life, hospice care can be provided for extended periods of time and offers meaningful support to patients and families.

Is hospice care expensive?

Hospice care is generally covered by Medicare, Medi-Cal and most commercial insurance. **Often, the cost of hospice care is lower than traditional hospital care.**

Hospice can provide:

-  Medications related to pain and symptom control
-  Medical supplies and equipment such as a hospital bed or oxygen
-  Emotional and spiritual support
-  24/7 access to care and guidance from the hospice team
-  Support for the family after their loved one dies

Hospice teams may include:

- **Nurses** - clinical care, symptom management, and 24/7 support
- **Hospice aides** - personal care and comfort
- **Social workers** - emotional support, family guidance, and resources
- **Spiritual counselors** - support for all beliefs
- **Physicians or nurse practitioners** - medical oversight and planning
- **Volunteers** - companionship and practical help
- **Bereavement counselors** - grief support after death

Hospice care providers work alongside families to honor their values, traditions, and cultural preferences while providing medical and emotional support. Choosing hospice is not about giving up and hospice does not hasten death.

It ensures patients and families receive thoughtful, respectful care.

CHAPCA believes the best time to learn about and ask about hospice is before hospice services are needed.

When choosing a hospice care provider, it's important to select one that is licensed, experienced, and able to meet the patient's medical and personal needs.

You can begin your search and compare providers using the Find a Hospice or Palliative Care Provider tool at:



www.calhospice.org/find-a-hospice-or-palliative-care-provider



Scan QR code

Find a Provider easily with our comprehensive database.

"The biggest misconception is that hospice means giving up. It doesn't. Hospice is about living fully, comfortably, and meaningfully until the very end. It's about surrounding families with support, easing pain, and helping each moment matter. Choosing hospice isn't surrender — it's choosing peace, presence, and dignity."

- Hospice Provider