

# Mary Washington Healthcare Hospice Services | Provider Guide

Mary Washington Healthcare Hospice Services is a certified, not-for-profit medical hospice agency, delivering high quality patient and family care to the Fredericksburg Region for more than 25 years.

Hospice care is received right where patients live, including their homes (most common), assisted living facilities, nursing homes, or hospice-contracted inpatient beds. The overall intent is comfort and convenience allowing the patient to stay at his/her place of residence.

## Why refer to MWHC Hospice Services?

### Seamless Admission to Hospice Services

**OUR TEAM CAN ADMIT PATIENTS WITHIN 24 HOURS OF A REFERRAL.** We want to offer support immediately as we know the decision to elect hospice can come with anxiety.

### Early Intervention Planning Assistance

- We can help you talk to patients about hospice benefits, providing more support earlier in the process.
- Patients and families who receive education and support earlier have their symptom management improved, receive more emotional support and have more time to live according to their wishes.
- **MWHC Palliative Services** may be an option for your patients who have a serious chronic illness and who are seeking curative treatments yet are not “ready” for hospice care.
- Our palliative care providers review medication, provide assessments, help guide ongoing goals of care conversations, and initiate advance care planning.

### Comprehensive Services for Patients and Family Members

- **We are “911” for hospice patients.** We have a RN on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, for patients and families.
- Hospice care team works together to manage patient’s pain based on individual comfort goals.
- Coordinate seamless transitions from hospital care to at-home care.
- Hospice care for patients requiring temporary hospital stays at Mary Washington or Stafford Hospital.
- Arrange for hospice related medications, medical equipment and supplies.
- GIP or respite care can be arranged if appropriate.
- Provide emotional support and spiritual care.
- Offer complimentary expressive therapies - a unique approach in enhancing the quality of life for hospice patients, families and caregivers.
- Assists patients and families with insurance coverage management issues.
- MWHC Grief Support Services, including support groups for all ages, are free to anyone in the community in need.



## ACCEPTING REFERRALS

via EPIC, fax 540.741.4263, or  
email [hospice.intake@mwhc.com](mailto:hospice.intake@mwhc.com)

*(Our team can admit a patient within 24 hours of referral.)*

*Your most comprehensive hospice resource partner in the Fredericksburg region.*

# Affirming Life Through Compassionate Care

## Hospice Eligibility General Guidelines

CMS identifies that a patient is eligible for hospice if they have a terminal illness with a prognosis of 6 months or less, if the disease runs its usual course. Patients often remain on hospice longer, if they continue to decline and meet criteria. The hospice interdisciplinary team creates the plan of care based on treatments and medications that will symptoms and are related to the terminal illness. Hospice is not meant to be curative but to support quality care at end of life.

## Clinical Status

- Recurrent or intractable infections such as pneumonia, sepsis or upper urinary tract.
- Weight loss not due to reversible causes.
- Dysphagia leading to recurrent aspiration and/or inadequate oral intake.

## Symptoms

- Dyspnea or increasing oxygen needs.
- Nausea/vomiting poorly responsive to treatment.
- Refractory pain requiring increasing doses of major analgesics more frequently.

## Other Supporting Evidence

- Increasing emergency room visits, hospitalizations, or physician's visits.
- Dependence on assistance for two or more activities of daily living (ADLs): feeding, ambulation, continence, transfers, bathing, dressing.

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## Interdisciplinary Team/Physician Communication

- We are your most comprehensive hospice resource partner in the Fredericksburg region.
- Our interdisciplinary clinical team works closely with you and your team to serve referred patients.
- We are your eyes and ears in patient's homes and provide timely updates on their condition.
- We strive to communicate with you and your team in the most convenient method possible.

## Initial Patient and Family Consultations

**Patients do not need a physician's order for a hospice liaison visit.** If you feel a patient could benefit from more information about MWHC Hospice Services, philosophy, and options, you can arrange a liaison visit or encourage them to reach out to our team by calling 540.741.3580.

