

Hospice Comparison Checklist

A practical guide for comparing hospice providers before your family decides.

Before you call

- Ask the doctor or care team whether hospice may be appropriate now and what goals of care should guide the decision.
- Make a short list of what matters most to your loved one and family: comfort, being at home, language, faith, family involvement, or another priority.
- Have insurance information ready. Coverage and provider networks can vary by plan and location.

Questions for each hospice provider

- Which counties or areas do you serve, and do you have experience with my loved one's condition?
- Who is on the care team, and who will be our main contact?
- Who decides how often the nurse, nursing aide, social worker, chaplain, or other team members visit?
- How can we reach someone after hours, on weekends, or during a symptom change?
- How quickly can someone visit if symptoms change or we need help?
- How are medications, medical equipment, and supplies arranged? Who covers it?
- How are family caregivers taught what to expect and what to do between visits?
- Do you include the patient and family in the care plan? Can you provide language or cultural support if needed?
- If we are concerned about care, who should we contact? Can we change hospice providers if needed?

Our family's priorities and questions

Important: This guide is for education and conversation preparation only. It is not medical advice, a diagnosis, or a substitute for the guidance of the treating care team. In an emergency, contact emergency services or the treating care team.