

Hospice Conversation Starter

Questions to help your family begin a calm, clear conversation with the care team.

Start with your loved one's goals

- What matters most to my loved one right now: comfort, time at home, symptom relief, independence, or something else?
- What changes have we noticed in daily life, symptoms, hospital visits, or caregiver stress? Who should be included in this conversation?

Questions to ask the doctor or care team

- Based on what you are seeing, is it time to talk about hospice care? Why or why not?
- What changes in my loved one's illness should our family understand right now?
- What care or services may change, and what support could hospice provide for comfort, equipment, and family caregivers?
- What choices would we still have, and who can help us compare hospice providers or understand benefit questions?
- What should we do after hours or if symptoms become urgent?

A simple way to begin

- You might say: "We want to understand all of our options. Can you explain whether hospice might help, what it would look like, and what questions we should ask before deciding?"
- It is okay to ask for time, repeat information, include another family member, or request an interpreter before making a decision.

What we heard and what we want to ask next

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.