

# Understanding Hospice

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## Important Notice

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**“I don’t mind dying, I just don’t want  
to be there when it happens.”**

**-Woody Allen**

# What are the facts about hospice?

Hospice is a service, it is not a place. Hospice is considered to be the model for quality, compassionate care for people facing life-limiting illness. Hospice involves a team oriented approach to expert medical care, pain management, emotional and spiritual support tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. At the center of hospice care is the belief that each of us has the right to die pain free and with dignity, and that our families will receive the necessary support to allow us to do so.

**If you had a life-limiting disease and  
had a choice, how would you want to  
die?**

# Hospice is a concept of care.

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- Hospice exists to affirm and improve the quality of life for individuals who have an incurable disease.
- Hospice is a way of caring for and comforting the dying person and their family so every day one might live each day to the fullest.

# ConnectCare

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- Was founded in 1995 as a home care agency
- Became a Medicare-Certified Hospice in 1999
- Is co-owned by Hutchinson Area Health Care and Glencoe Regional Health Services

# ConnectCare...

- Serves communities within a 30 mile radius of Hutchinson and Glencoe, including all of McLeod County, and parts of Meeker, Wright, Renville, Sibley & Carver Counties

# Hospice...

- Agencies in Minnesota have been providing services to terminally ill clients for over 20 years
- Hospice services in McLeod County began as 2 separate hospices sponsored by the hospitals of Hutchinson and Glencoe
- The employees of both hospices were paid by the hospitals, but received no reimbursement for hospice services

# What are the benefits?

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Hospice offers palliative rather than curative treatment

- Change in focus from cure to comfort
- Aggressive management of pain and other symptoms
- Allows natural death

## Hospice considers the needs of the client and family

- Focuses on physical, spiritual, and emotional needs
- Teaches care techniques to family and primary caregiver
- Supports the family before and after death

# Hospice Admission Criteria

- Person must have a progressive, terminal disease for which curative treatment is no longer being sought
- Physician gives a prognosis of 6 months or less to live
- Person, family/caregiver, and physician are in agreement to elect hospice care
- Person has a competent and able caregiver to maintain responsibility for care

# Who provides hospice care?

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Hospice treats the person,  
not the disease,  
with a “team” approach

# Team Members Include:

- Client and family/caregiver
- Client's physician
- Hospice Registered Nurse Case Manager
- Hospice Social Worker
- Home Health Aides
- Hospice Chaplain or client's clergy
- Hospice Medical Director
- Hospice Volunteer

# Client and family/caregivers...

## Client and family/caregivers...

- Maintain control over making decisions
- Participate in developing and changing the plan of care as needs change
- Decide which hospice services will best meet their unique needs

# Client's Physician...

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- Certifies that client has a life-limiting disease
- Oversees Hospice plan of care, condition and prognosis
- Collaborates on providing comfort (palliative) care

# Hospice Registered Nurse Case Manager...

- Implements client's plan of care
- Teaches techniques to family/caregiver
- Visits client 1 to 3 times per week or more if needed
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via telephone

# Hospice Social Worker...

- Provides emotional support to client and family/caregiver as they address end of life issues
- Identifies community resources that may be needed for client and family/caregiver
- Provides bereavement services to family/caregiver for one year following death of the client

# Home Health Aides...

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- Assist client with personal cares
- Can do some light housekeeping and meal preparation
- Provides respite services for families

# Hospice Chaplain...

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- Explores spiritual issues with client
- Connects person and family with faith community

# Hospice Medical Director...

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- Oversees the treatment provided to client by the hospice team
- Coordinates with client's physician and is available for consultation

# Hospice Volunteer...

- Supports the client and family/caregiver
- Provides respite to family/caregiver
- Assists client with doing a life review
- Provides companionship
- May provide bereavement service

# Hospice services can be provided in...

- Clients home
- Home of client's family or caregiver
- Hospice house
- Long-Term Care Facility
- Assisted Living Facility
- Board and Lodge

# Hospice is paid for by...

- Medicare Hospice Benefit
- Medical Assistance
- Private Insurance
- Donations for uninsured

Hospice referrals can be made by  
anyone, not just the client's  
physician

# Musical Intervention Program...

- Started in December 2003
- Provides weekly 30 minute visit to client
- Is a time for client to reminisce and relax
- Is funded through donations made to the program

# Birchwood:

## The Mary Burich House is...

- A 5 bedroom hospice house owned and operated by ConnectCare
- For clients receiving hospice services
- Staffed 24 hours a day with a LPN, with a RN on-call
- An alternative to being in client's own home, nursing home, or hospital
- A home that can accommodate families for overnight stays

# The Birchwood House: The Mary Burich House





## **Great Room**

**Wonderful area for families to relax.**



## **Kitchen**

**Beautiful Kitchen at the center of the home.**

# Dining Room

Music Therapy



Family Time



# Reading Room





## Chapel

Private area for reflection.

# Four Season Porch



# Four Season Porch



# Bedrooms



# Family Room



# Guest Room



# Hope, Dignity, Love...It must be Hospice



**“You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but to live until you die”**

**-Dame Cicely Saunders,  
founder of the first hospice**