



Frequently asked questions

FOR PHYSICIANS

What services does Mission Hospice offer?

We provide a continuum of care for those with life-limiting illnesses, including palliative care, skilled nursing, MD/NP home visits, medical social work for emotional support and case management, HHA to assist with personal care, therapies as directed by a hospice MD, and volunteers to assist as needed.

We also provide round-the-clock hospice care for patients at Mission House, our hospice house in Redwood City. Six rooms are available for patients who cannot stay at home and who need intensive pain and symptom management. House placement depends upon acuity and availability.

How are patients referred to Mission Hospice?

Patients are referred through hospitals, physicians, caregivers, and family members. Staff are also available for informational visits in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and private homes, for families considering hospice or palliative care.

To make a referral to Mission Hospice, please call us at 650.554.1000 and ask for our intake staff.

What makes Mission Hospice different?

Our continuum of care model allows us to provide patients with quality palliative care throughout their final months. It also allows our patients (and, importantly, their families) to remain with the same support team throughout their journey. Our well-trained volunteers and dedicated staff help ensure that our patients spend their final months in comfort and with the support they need.

“Every patient is unique, and every illness progresses differently. That’s why our continuum of care model is so important. It allows us to provide patients the same support network and high quality care regardless of how Medicare classifies them during that last stage of life.”

– Karri Kaiser, Medical Social Worker

Mission Hospice has a low patient-to-nurse ratio, allowing us to provide the personalized care for which we are known. We are often able to provide same-day service upon request, and have a multilingual staff to serve our diverse community.

We tailor a care plan especially for each patient, with sensitivity to cultural, religious, and personal preferences. We don’t just provide medical care – we offer compassion.

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is focused on comfort and compassion. It treats the whole person, addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Working as a team, specially trained nurses, doctors, social workers, and spiritual counselors work closely with patients and families to support quality of life and relieve the symptoms of disease. Palliative care can be given at any stage of a disease, and is offered across the Mission Hospice continuum of care.

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

– Dame Cicely Saunders,
founder of modern hospice

What is hospice care?

Considered to be the model for quality, compassionate care for people facing an end-of-life illness, hospice care involves a team-oriented, holistic approach to expert medical care, pain and symptom management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient’s needs and wishes.

“ As a volunteer with Mission Hospice, I have the opportunity to help each individual accept and possibly embrace what is happening. I’m there to help them know they are not alone.”

– Paul Smith,
volunteer

Hospice also supports the patient’s loved ones. At the center of hospice and palliative 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 this to occur.

Who pays for this care?

Hospice care is covered by the Medicare hospice benefit and most private insurance. Our Transitions program provides care management and supportive services at no cost to patients who are not yet ready for hospice.

Donations from the community support our exceptional care and educational programs, and help us serve people regardless of their medical coverage or ability to pay.

How did Mission Hospice get started?

A handful of visionary community leaders saw the need amongst their family and friends for hospice care, and founded Mission Hospice in 1979 to meet that need as San Mateo County’s first hospice program. As a trusted, local, independent nonprofit, we have served thousands of patients and their families with physical, emotional, and spiritual support throughout the journey from a life-threatening diagnosis through death and bereavement.

Who runs Mission Hospice?

Our 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is led by a dedicated volunteer board of directors and a highly-trained professional staff, with support from thousands of donors who share our commitment to our community. We are local residents who believe that every member of our community should have access to compassionate palliative and hospice care.