

## **Is Hospice for Me?**

Hospice is an underutilized and often misunderstood type of care. Many more people are appropriate for hospice care than actually use it.

Hospice patients are certified by a physician to have a 6-month or less prognosis for an incurable or life-limiting illness based on a clinical evaluation regarding the normal course of the disease. Patients and their families should have open discussions with their physician to help make the decision to choose hospice care.

If your physician is hesitant to discuss hospice care, you may want to call Gaston Hospice for more information. Our clinical staff are also happy to meet with you and your physician to discuss hospice care together. Friends, family or the patient may make the initial call to Gaston Hospice. We will then work to gain the referral from the patient's physician.

Hospice care replaces curative treatments, which can often be aggressive and futile, with a high-tech, high-touch system of comfort care at home. Though a patient is required to have a life expectancy of six months or less, those who live longer will continue to receive hospice care for as long as they need it.

We serve patients in Gaston County and the surrounding counties. If you live in South Carolina, we would be happy to refer you to a hospice in your area. A primary caregiver should be available to be an active participant in the patient's care. The patient should be in a safe environment if there is no caregiver in the household. If a patient lacks a practical caregiver or home situation, placement in a long term care facility or the Robin Johnson House, Gaston Hospice's inpatient facility, may be an option.

Patients are admitted to hospice care regardless of ability to pay, age, race, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or religion.