

HOSPICE AND ASSISTED LIVING

Can Hospice Help Someone Remain in Assisted Living?

Hospice may bring additional clinical services, equipment and family support into the place a resident already calls home. This guide explains what hospice can add - and the limits families should understand.

CHOOSING HOSPICE IS NOT THE SAME AS GIVING UP

Hospice focuses on comfort, quality of life and support when a person is eligible. Care may continue while eligibility continues, and the individual may revoke hospice later. An evaluation does not commit anyone to enrollment.

Two teams, different responsibilities

ASSISTED LIVING MAY PROVIDE	HOSPICE MAY ADD
Housing, meals, supervision, help with daily activities, medication assistance within its authority, routine observation and services required by its license and resident agreement.	Nursing assessment, symptom management, hospice aide visits, related medications and equipment, physician and social work support, spiritual care, after-hours clinical access and caregiver education.

Can hospice help a resident remain?

Sometimes. When hospice is clinically appropriate and the resident chooses it, added clinical support may help a community safely continue serving someone whose needs have increased. Depending on state rules, an approved exception, waiver, added staffing or another coordinated arrangement may be involved.

IMPORTANT LIMIT

Hospice does not automatically expand an assisted living facility's license. The community must still comply with state rules, staffing and safety requirements and its own ability to meet the resident's needs. Enrollment alone does not guarantee that a resident can remain.

The decision must remain the resident's

Hospice should never be presented as mandatory or used only to address a facility licensing concern. Eligibility, informed choice and the person's goals of care come first.

Five questions to ask together

- 1. Can the community legally and safely support these needs?
- 2. Which team is responsible for each service?
- 3. What happens after hours?
- 4. What costs remain outside hospice?
- 5. What changes could still require a move?

A coordinated plan matters

Ask for a coordinated plan in which the facility, hospice, attending clinician, resident and family understand responsibilities, communication and how urgent needs will be handled.

NOTES

SOURCES AND REVIEW

Last reviewed August 15, 2026. Assisted living requirements vary by state and facility type. Confirm the resident's situation with the facility, hospice and state licensing authority. SimplyNaya is independent and not endorsed by Medicare, CMS or HHS.

Medicare coverage
CMS hospice