

Questions to Ask Before Choosing a Hospice

You do not have to ask every question. Start with what matters most today, write down the answers and notice whether the hospice communicates clearly and respectfully.

Getting started

How quickly can you evaluate and admit someone when hospice is appropriate?

Where do you provide care, and do you currently serve this location?

What should our family expect during the first 24 to 48 hours?

Which insurance plans do you accept, and who will explain possible costs?

Visits and responsiveness

Who answers calls at night, on weekends and on holidays?

How quickly should we expect a response to an urgent need?

Will we usually see the same nurse and hospice aide?

How often should we expect visits from each member of the hospice team?

How many patients does each nurse typically manage?

Medications, equipment and symptoms

Which medications, supplies and equipment will hospice provide?

How quickly can a hospital bed, oxygen or other equipment be delivered?

Which current medications may continue, and who makes that decision?

What should we do if pain or another symptom becomes difficult to control?

Where is inpatient hospice care available if symptoms cannot be managed here?

Caregiver and family support

What training will you provide to family or facility caregivers?

How is respite care arranged when a caregiver needs a break?

What social work, spiritual care and bereavement services are available?

How will you communicate changes in the care plan to our family?

Who should we contact if we have a concern about service or responsiveness?

Fit and accountability

	What experience does your team have with this illness and these care needs?
	How do you coordinate with the attending physician and other care providers?
	What services might not be covered because you consider them unrelated to the terminal illness?
	How can we request that determination in writing?
	If this hospice is not the right fit, how would a change to another provider be coordinated?

NOTES

SOURCES AND REVIEW	Last reviewed August 15, 2026. Developed from public Medicare guidance. SimplyNaya is independent and is not affiliated with or endorsed by Medicare, CMS or HHS.	Medicare checklist
-------------------------------	---	--------------------