

THE MYTHS OF HOSPICE CARE

Hospice began as a response to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and families facing a life-limiting illness. Only one in three eligible patients and families however, experience the benefits of hospice care. The following “myths” often keep people who need help from calling Big Bend Hospice.

MYTH 1: Hospice is for patients who are bed-bound and only have a few days to live.

Hospice services are available after a physician has determined that there are no more treatments that will cure an illness and life expectancy is 6 months or less. The earlier a patient and their family receive hospice care, the more opportunity there is to utilize all the many services Big Bend Hospice can offer. Hospice patients can continue to work, attend sports events or take vacations while still under the hospice plan of care.

MYTH 2: Hospice is for people who have “no hope”.

When faced with a life limiting illness that has no cure, many patients and families tend to focus on the anticipated loss instead of making the most of the life remaining. Big Bend Hospice helps patients live, fully and completely, with their pain controlled and their loved ones supported. The gift of hospice is the time that can be used to complete personal and spiritual connections. Fear and frustration can be replaced with time for reunion, remembering, laughter and hope. Patients are able to leave hospice at any time to return to active treatment and some hospice patients stabilize and are discharged from the program.

MYTH 3: Hospice is a place.

Hospice is a philosophy of care and not a place. Patients can receive hospice care wherever they live – usually in their own homes, but also in nursing homes, assisted living facilities or in hospitals.

MYTH 4: Hospice is only for cancer patients.

Last year only 33% of Big Bend Hospice patients had cancer. Hospice serves patients of all ages with any life limiting disease including heart, lung, kidney, vascular and neurological disease as well as AIDS and Alzheimer’s.

MYTH 5: Hospice care is expensive and will take my estate to pay for services.

Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most other types of insurance. Once elected, the hospice benefit covers all the medications related to the hospice illness as well as the medical equipment and supplies. This takes a huge financial burden off the shoulders of the family. There is a sliding fee scale for families without insurance but because Big Bend Hospice is supported by community donations, no one is ever turned away because they can’t pay.

MYTH 6: Hospice “dopes people up” so they become addicted or sleep all the time.

When patients have a legitimate need for pain medication, they do not become addicted to it. Big Bend Hospice has the expertise to manage pain so that patients are comfortable yet alert and are able to enjoy each day to the fullest extent possible, given their medical condition.



Big Bend Hospice
your hometown hospice, licensed since 1983

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