



Considering hospice services?

Hospice in the United States began in the 1970’s, with approval by Medicare in 1983. Almost all of the early hospices were small community programs that operated as voluntary, not-for-profit agencies. The 1990’s saw explosive growth of hospice and today there are for profit hospice providers as well as not-for-profit providers, just as is the case with hospitals.

Some areas have many hospice programs, while other geographical areas may only have a few hospices. Hospice services are often underutilized by their communities. There are large and small, rural, urban and suburban hospices. As with any large system there may be variations in care, but all Medicare-certified hospices must provide the same core services. Since the kind of services hospice provides are mandated under Medicare that leaves the question of how those services are provided in Medicare-certified hospices.

So if and when you must consider hospice services you might want to ask the some of the following questions.

Patient’s Needs and Wishes:

- How does the hospice staff, working with the patient and loved ones, honor the patient’s wishes?

Family Involvement and Support:

- Are family caregivers given the information and training they need to care for the patient at home?
- What services does the hospice offer to help the patient and loved ones deal with grief and loss?
- Is respite care (relief for the caregiver), including in-patient, available?
- Are loved ones told what to expect in the dying process and what happens after the patient’s death?
- What bereavement services are available after the patient dies?

Physician Role:

- What is the role of the patient’s physician once hospice care begins?
- How will the hospice physician oversee the patient’s care and work with the patient’s doctor?

Staffing:

- How many patients at any one time are assigned to each hospice staff member who will be caring for the patient?

Volunteers:

- What services do volunteers offer?
- What screening and type of training do hospice volunteers receive before they are placed with patients and families?

Comfort and Pain Management:

- Does the hospice staff regularly discuss and routinely evaluate pain control and symptom management with patients and families?
- Does the hospice staff respond immediately to requests for additional pain medication?
- What specialty or expanded programs does hospice offer?
- How does the hospice meet the spiritual and emotional needs of the patient and family?

After-Hours Care:

- How quickly does the hospice respond to after-hour emergencies?
- How are calls and visits handled when death occurs?
- Are other services, such as chaplain or social worker, available after-hours?

Nursing Home Residents and Other Residential Care Settings:

- How does the hospice provide services for residents in different care settings?

Hospitals and Other Inpatient Options:

- How does the hospice work with hospitals and other facilities during the course of the patient’s stay?
- What will happen if care cannot be managed at home?

Quality:

- What measures does the hospice use to ensure quality?
- Does the hospice program follow the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s “Standards of Practice for Hospice Programs”?
- Do hospice professionals have special credentials in their areas?

Surveys and Inspections:

- Is the hospice program certified, licensed, and reviewed by the state (if state licensure applies) or the federal government?
- What other kind of accreditation or certification does the hospice program or its staff have?

Paying for Hospice Care:

- Are all of the costs of hospice care covered by the patient’s health insurance? What services will the patient have to pay for out-of-pocket? Are any services provided at no charge?

At any time, if you are uncertain about whether hospice is right for you, ask the hospice if they would perform an evaluation of the patient and let you know if hospice would be an appropriate referral now..or at a later date.

A hospice should be several things:

It should be an agent for learning in the community, especially the medical community.

It should be an agent for change, especially in the health care community.

*It should be humble about the work it is privileged to do.
It should be respectful of the lifestyles of all it serves.
It should serve people regardless of race, religion, economic
or social status.*

Daily, at Hospice of Limestone County, we strive to be the hospice that you want in your time of need. If you ever have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to give us a call or shoot us an email. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

We are "Hometown Folks Helping Hometown People"...

Think Pink...PINK ELEPHANT that is...

What: 4th Annual Pink Elephant Luncheon
When: Wednesday October 19th 11:30 – 1:00
Where: Limestone County Event Center
Why: Breast Cancer Awareness and Education
Who: Athens-Limestone Hospital Foundation & The Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer
How: \$30 per person or \$180 for tables of 6, *Reservations Required.*
Contact: Amy Golden 233-9236 or Lory Walmsley 233-9122



Athens-Limestone Hospital Foundation will once again partner with the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer to host the 4th annual "Pink Elephant Luncheon" to help further breast cancer research and provide mammogram scholarships for deserving women. The party will begin at 11:30 with a gourmet lunch followed by presentations from Athens Limestone Hospital CEO, Kelli Powers, and Heidi Floyd, spokesperson for the Vera Bradley Foundation and breast cancer survivor. The event will also include the ever popular raffle of Vera Bradley merchandise and every guest will receive a special Vera Bradley "Pink Elephant" gift. Proceeds will benefit Athens-Limestone Hospital's Pink Elephant Mammogram Scholarship Program and the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer. Seating is limited. For information about sponsorship opportunities or to make reservations contact Amy Golden at (256)233-9236 amyg@alhnet.org or Lory Walmsley at (256)233-9122 loryw@alhnet.org.

5th Annual Athens Storytelling Festival 2011
LIFE, LEGENDS & LIES
Thursday, Oct. 27 – Saturday, Oct. 29
DOWNTOWN – Athens, AL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 2011

10/05/11	Widow's & Widower's Group-Noon @ HOLC
10/07/11	Athens-Limestone Foundation on Aging BEAN DAY-1 st Baptist Church
10/07 & 08/11	TN Valley Fiddler's Convention
10/08/11	Wacky Quacky Ducky Derby-4pm
10/10/11	Parent's Grief Support Group-6pm @ HOLC
10/11/11	In-service-"Care of the Alzheimer's Patient-8:30am @ HOLC
10/12/11	"Party in Pink" Pamper Me Day Luncheon
10/13/11	Adult Grief Support Group 11am-HOLC
10/15/11	"Dinner in the Orchard" fundraiser for ALH
10/17/11	Chili Challenge 2012 Meeting 6pm-HOLC
10/18/11	Chamber Coffee-9am
10/19/11	Pink Elephant Luncheon 11:30am
10/22/11	Rails-to-Trails Fall Color Ride or Walk
10/27/2011	1 st Christian Church Harvest Meal
10/27&28/11	Athens Storytelling Festival

ATTENTION ALL CHILI CHALLENGE VOLUNTEERS:

CHILI 2012 WILL SOON BE APPROACHING AND IT'S TIME TO GET TOGETHER AND GET IT GOING! THERE WILL BE A MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH @ 6PM HERE AT THE OFFICE FOR ALL INVOLVED. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!



YUMMO...THE FALL BOUNTY

Over many years, we have been fortunate to have our community share with us their garden bounty. Over the summer we had tomatoes, bell peppers, hot peppers, basil, egg plant, pecans & peaches donated to us. With the fall harvest slowly coming in, we have already had numerous apples and pears donated.

As always we do our best to get the most and best use of these wonderful gifts. First and foremost, we always send out these gifts to share with our patients and their families. If there are any leftover, we have been lovingly canning salsa, pear and pepper relish, apple butter and pear butter.

We had a taste sampling here at the office one morning and yummo...! Look for the canned goods in our "Country Store" at Chili Challenge 2012!

Thank you to Mellanie & Trenton Barksdale, Marcellina Holt, Linda Putman, David Test and Gina Martin. These 6 compassionate volunteers just completed patient care hospice training and are now a big part of our Hospice of Limestone County team...
Welcome aboard and we are so glad to have

As your **only** community based, non-profit United Way Agency, Hospice of Limestone County serves families regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex or handicap. We work to honor the dignity and individuality of each patient and family we serve. **There are no charges for hospice services.**



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- If you wish to be taken off our e-newsletter mailing list, please reply with "remove" in the subject line.
- If you know someone who would like to receive our e-newsletter, please "forward-to-a-friend"!
- Comments, questions or suggestions are always welcome.