

Our Mission Statement

Hospice promotes quality of life through the provision of holistic comfort care for the terminally ill and their loved ones before and after death. We are also dedicated to educating our community about issues related to death, dying, grief and bereavement.

For Those on the Final Journey of Life

During the course of a life threatening illness, there may come a time when the patient, family and physician realize a cure may not be possible. At such time, Hospice offers an alternative to continued hospitalization and attempts at curing the disease.

The purpose of Hospice care is to enable individuals to be cared for at home, receiving relief from pain and other symptoms, in the place where they are most comfortable. Hospice provides support and encouragement so patients and families can live life as fully as possible.

Lewis County Hospice Program

Lewis County Hospice was founded in 1988 and certified by Medicare in 1990. Hospice affirms life and views dying as part of life. We believe that through a caring community of skilled staff and trained volunteers, Hospice care can improve the quality of life for the patient and family.



Admission Guidelines

Anyone can refer a patient to the program by simply calling Lewis County Hospice at 315-376-5308.

Our program has four admission guidelines that must be considered before patients and families can enroll.

1. The patient must reside in Lewis County.
2. The patient must have a life expectancy that is measured in terms of months.
3. The patient and physician agree to nonaggressive care, with an emphasis on comfort care.
4. The patient must have a "primary care person" (often a family member or friend) who can be available as needed, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

No person will be denied admission or service based on his or her age, race, color, religion, national origin, inability to pay, physical or mental handicap or other unjust barriers.



Who Pays for Hospice Care?

Both Medicare and Medicaid provide Hospice care

coverage and most insurance plans have some form of Hospice benefit. Because prolonged illnesses often create monetary concerns for the family, the Hospice social worker can assist the family with financial planning.

Our Services

Lewis County Hospice offers a family centered approach to its care. Our interdisciplinary team focuses on both the needs of the patient and the patient's family.

Our team coordinates with the patient's primary care physician to develop a plan of care that allows the patient to remain at home with their loved ones and provides both pain and symptom management. Our team includes a medical director, both registered and licensed practical nurses, a social worker, chaplain, bereavement coordinator, volunteer coordinator and trained volunteers.



The Hospice interdisciplinary team will provide the following services:

- Pain and symptom management.
- Instruction in and guidance in the care of the patient.
- Emotional, psychosocial and spiritual support.
- Medications, nursing supplies and durable medical equipment related to the patient's terminal illness.
- Hospitalization, if medically necessary for symptom and pain management or caregiver respite.
- A registered nurse is on call 24/7 for medical crisis intervention and consultation.



Hospice Care in the Lewis County Residential Health Care Facility

In cases where a patient can no longer be taken care of at home, Hospice staff can provide care for patients in the nursing home who are appropriate.



The Hospice team provides professional management of the patients care in conjunction with the nursing home staff to help provide pain management and symptom control. They are also available to provide support to the patient, their family and the nursing home staff. Our volunteers provide both companionship and support to the patient while in the nursing home.

Myths and Facts About Hospice

Myth: As soon as Hospice becomes involved, I am going to die.

Fact: Hospice neither hastens nor postpones death. We provide comfort and support extending quality of life for our patients.

Myth: Hospice is only for cancer patients.

Fact: Hospice cares for any person with a life threatening illness that fits the admission guidelines.

Myth: Hospice is not covered by insurance so I may have to give up my home or assets.

Fact: Most insurance companies have some form of Hospice benefit. The Hospice social worker can work with families regarding finances.

Myth: There are age limits for Hospice.

Fact: Hospice serves patients of all ages.



How Can I Support Lewis County Hospice?

Charitable donations to the Lewis County Hospital Foundation and fundraisers sponsored by the Friends of Lewis County Hospice provide resources to ensure Hospice patients receive compassionate end-of-life care.

Please mail tax-deductible donations to:

Lewis County Hospital Foundation
7785 North State Street
Lowville, NY 13367
315-376-5110

You may also make a secure on-line donation at:

lchf.networkforgood.com

Restricted Fund:
Lewis County Hospice



7785 N. State Street
Lowville, NY 13367
PH: 315-376-5308
FAX: 315-376-5435
www.lcgh.net



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Lowville, NY 13367