



Hospice Care

Hospice Care at The Village of Harmony Hill, in collaboration with Prairie Lakes Hospice, is a specialized service designed to provide compassionate care for individuals who are in the end stages of life.

The goal of this collaboration is to ensure that residents experience comfort, dignity, and support during their final days, while also addressing both their physical and emotional needs.



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Our commitment is to provide compassionate, dignified support throughout this journey.

ASSESSMENT & CARE PLANNING

- **Initial Assessment:** Families often notice changes in their loved ones that indicate a decline in health. The Village staff may also identify these signs and may suggest hospice care. With family agreement, the nurse will contact the physician for a hospice consultation. The hospice team will then schedule an assessment with the family present.
- **Care Plan Development:** After assessment and hospice admission, a personalized care plan is created focusing on pain management, symptom control, emotional and spiritual support, and quality of life. This plan is shared with the assisted living facility, hospice staff, the resident, and family to ensure continuity of care.

MEDICAL & NURSING SUPPORT

- **Hospice Team Involvement:** A hospice team, including nurses, social workers, chaplains, and volunteers, works alongside The Village staff. The hospice nurses provide regular visits, typically on a schedule but with flexibility to respond to urgent needs. These are services that are in addition to the care that our assisted living provides.
- **Pain and Symptom Management:** The hospice team focuses on ensuring that the resident is comfortable, managing any pain or symptoms such as shortness of breath, nausea, or anxiety. Hospice doctors often prescribe medications to control pain or distress, and The Village staff administers them. Hospice support allows for quicker access to medications and protocols for comfort medications for changing conditions.

**Prairie Lakes Hospice uses a unique syringe driver device that delivers comfort medications subcutaneously. Once this syringe driver is placed, 24-hour care is required to be provided by the family. This can be family, friends, or a hired individual. The clinical staff at The Village will continue to provide personal care for the residents. Management of the syringe driver is not within the scope of practice for the clinical staff. The hospice team provides training.*

COORDINATION OF CARE

- **Collaboration Between Staff:** The Village assisted living staff and hospice team collaborate closely to ensure that care is seamless. This involves frequent communication between the two teams discussing changes in the resident's condition, adjusting the care plan, and providing updates to the family. **As residents receiving hospice care require additional coordination of care, there is a monthly fee of \$1,000 for hospice services.** This includes the additional nursing time and most ancillary fees. Meals for the 24-hour caregiver are provided at no additional charge. Ancillary fees such as room trays, bed making, additional laundry, or bathing are waived and included in this fee.
- **24/7 Availability:** Hospice teams are typically available on-call 24/7. If the resident's condition changes or they require more intensive care, the hospice team can intervene quickly, working with The Village team to adjust care appropriately.

ENVIRONMENT

- **Familiar Setting:** The Village provides a familiar and home-like environment, which is important for residents nearing the end of life. The hospice team works to adapt this environment to create a peaceful, calm, and supportive space.
- **Privacy and Dignity:** Both the hospice group and The Village staff focus on maintaining the resident's dignity and privacy, allowing them to spend their final days in the most comfortable and respectful way possible.

END-OF-LIFE PLANNING

- The hospice team often assists residents and their families with advance care planning, including decisions about life-sustaining treatments, DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) orders, and other end-of-life wishes.
- As the end of life approaches, the hospice team prioritizes comfort measures, ensuring that the resident is as free from pain and distress as possible.

EMOTIONAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

- Prairie Lakes Hospice social workers and chaplains offer emotional and spiritual support to residents and their loved ones. Whether through grief counseling, spiritual guidance, or simply being there to listen, their team is dedicated to easing the emotional burden during this time.
- The Village of Harmony Hill assisted living and nursing staff receive specialized training to recognize signs of emotional distress and provide compassionate support. We are here to help navigate the complexities of end-of-life care with empathy and understanding.

SPIRITUAL & PERSONAL CARE

- Chaplains and spiritual counselors from Prairie Lakes Hospice offer personalized spiritual care. They respect the resident's beliefs and provide religious or spiritual support as desired.
- Hospice care at The Village aims to provide holistic care, addressing not only physical symptoms but also emotional, social, and spiritual well-being.

FAMILY SUPPORT

- Family Involvement: Hospice care emphasizes family involvement, offering guidance and support through the end-of-life process. Family members are encouraged to visit, spend time with their loved one, and participate in care decisions if they wish.
- Grief Support: After the resident's passing, the hospice group often provides grief support for the family, which can include counseling, support groups, and resources to help them cope with their loss.

You are not alone. We are here to walk this path with you, offering care, comfort, and guidance every step of the way.