VNSNY Hospice and Palliative Care for nursing home residents

An extra level of care and comfort from the Visiting Nurse Service of New York.
Residents with advanced illness can get the additional, specialized comfort care they need right in their long term care facility.

What is hospice care?
Hospice is comprehensive, compassionate care focused on providing physical relief and emotional support for individuals with advanced illness. Its main goals are to ensure comfort, enhance quality of life and preserve dignity and choice, so that life can be lived as fully as possible.

When should hospice care be considered?
We recognize that it can be difficult to know when to think about hospice as an option. However, one common indicator of the need for an assessment is a decline in daily functioning (such as eating, walking or engaging in social activities). Other signs:
- Diagnosis of conditions such as heart failure, COPD, end-stage renal disease, dementia, cancer or stroke
- Multiple hospitalizations, with less time between hospitalizations

Eligibility for hospice care is established on a case-by-case basis, and requires input from the resident’s physician. Our experienced team is available to answer any questions you might have.

What is the value of hospice care for residents?
Many people are not aware they can get the added benefits of hospice wherever they reside, including in a nursing home. Hospice provides specialized services to complement the care provided by the nursing home’s staff, ensuring that individuals get all the care they need right in the comfort of their residence. Hospice experts work with the facility’s staff to plan a program that addresses a range of needs – including physical, emotional and spiritual.

This additional level of care can also help prevent avoidable hospitalizations and emergency room visits. For families, hospice offers support, education and counseling to help alleviate stress and anxiety during a difficult time.

Why can you have confidence in the VNSNY approach?
VNSNY Hospice and Palliative Care is one of the oldest and largest programs of its kind in the New York metro area. For more than 20 years, we have partnered with nursing homes to make a difference in the lives of residents with advanced illnesses.
VNSNY provides care through a team of experts with specialized hospice training and experience. The team includes:
- Physician, board-certified in hospice and palliative medicine
- Registered nurse
- Hospice specialty aide
- Social worker
- Interfaith spiritual care counselor
- Volunteers

Individuals receive weekly visits from a hospice team member, and have access to 24/7 on-call support.

What types of services does VNSNY Hospice Care provide?
The VNSNY team works closely with residents, family members, staff and physicians to develop a care plan with services tailored to each resident’s individual needs and goals for care. Services include:
- Management of symptoms and physical discomfort
- Guidance on what to expect as the resident’s condition changes
- Counseling for emotional support

Special advanced symptom management is available for residents with heart, breathing or dementia-related conditions. We can also help with more practical issues, such as advance care planning, medical decision-making and preparing for the future.

Who pays for hospice and palliative care?
Hospice care benefits are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private health insurance plans (including HMOs). A VNSNY team member will be happy to answer questions you may have regarding financial concerns.

It’s easy to get started
To begin a conversation about hospice care, speak with your nursing home’s social worker or nurse manager. They will collaborate with our VNSNY team to ensure you get connected to the right care.

For any questions or more information about VNSNY Hospice, contact us directly at:

212-609-1900
We are available for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
VNSNY Hospice & Palliative Care

Our goal is to promote comfort, choice, dignity and a better quality of life. We offer the extra care, support and education that residents, their families and friends need to feel more comfortable and confident in making the most of each day together.

For more information call us at:

212-609-1900