

# What Your Colleagues Say About Hospice Care

## *Alzheimer's Association Recommends Hospice in Report Specific to End-of-Life Care*

“Access to hospice and palliative care can be particularly helpful in providing expertise regarding the complicated psychosocial and spiritual needs that residents and families may have.” In addition, “The involvement of hospice services can provide additional, experienced staff members who are skilled at meeting the grief and bereavement needs of family members.”

– J. Tilly, Dr.P.H., and colleagues  
*Alzheimer's Association*

As quoted in the 2007 report, *Dementia Care Practice Recommendations for Assisted Living Residences and Nursing Homes, Phase 3: End-of-Life Care*.

## *Hospice Care Linked to Longer Patient Survival; Myth of Hastened Death Dispelled*

“This study provides important information to dispel the myth that hospice hastens death and suggests that hospice is related with longer length of survival by days or months in certain terminally ill patients....This extra time might be particularly important to patients and their families, as it may allow some people to use the end of life as a time of resolution and closure.”

– S.R. Connor, Ph.D., and colleagues  
*National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization*

As quoted in the March 2007 issue of the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*.

## *When and How to Discuss Hospice? Physicians Offered a Structured Strategy*

When explaining hospice care to a patient and his or her family, clinicians might say, “Hospice doesn’t help people die sooner. Hospice helps people die naturally, in their own time. Hospice helps people live as well as they can for as long as they can. Hospice can help you and your family make the most of the time you have left.”

– D.J. Casarett, M.D., and colleagues  
*Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center*

As quoted in the March 20, 2007, issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

## *ALS and Other Fatal, Progressive Neurologic Diseases: Home Hospice Care Can Help*

“Home hospice is particularly helpful for ALS patients in late-stage illness because most are essentially housebound due to loss of mobility, and the multiple services hospice provides at home would not otherwise be available....Hospice, which is covered by Medicare, provides the best palliative care and comfort. At-home services include visits by a nurse, social worker, or chaplain; some home health aide coverage; and 24-hour on-call nursing.”

– H. Mitsumoto, M.D., and colleagues  
*Eleanor and Lou Gehrig ALS/MDA Center, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University*

As quoted in the July 11, 2007, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.