

Hospice Family Care

Hospice Care 101



What is hospice?

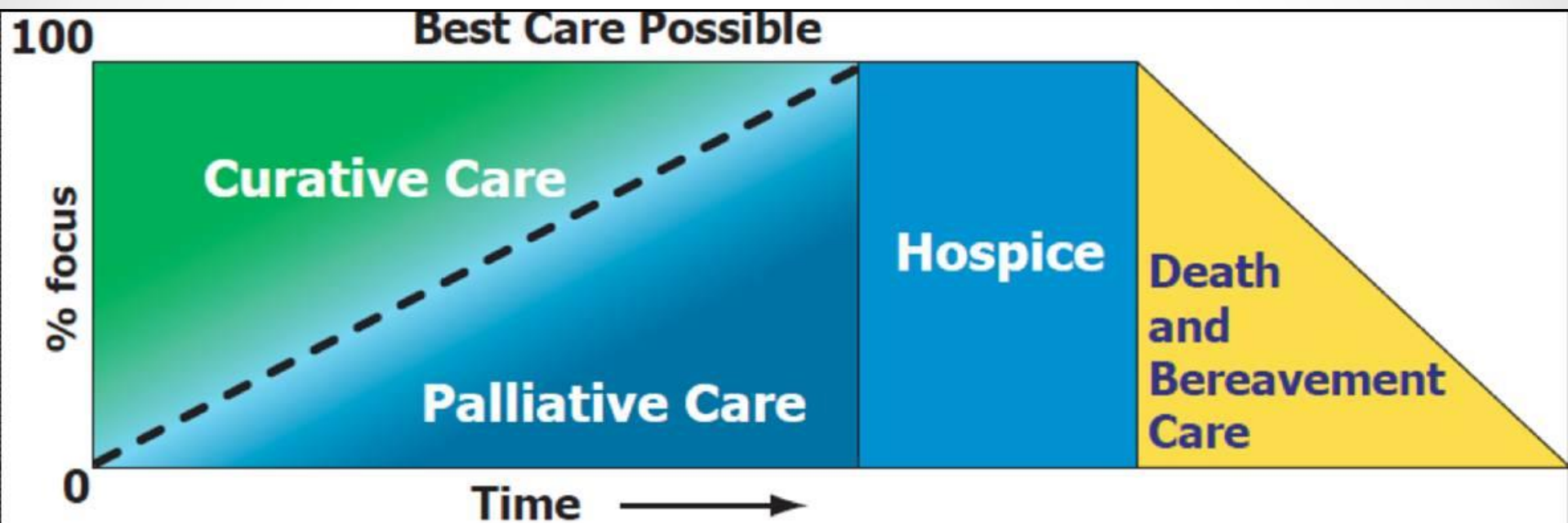
- Medical care to increase quality of life for someone with a terminal illness

Goals of Hospice

Live as well as possible for as long as possible.

The goal of hospice care is not to speed up the process of dying or to slow it down — but rather, to provide the best possible quality of life for dying patients and their families.

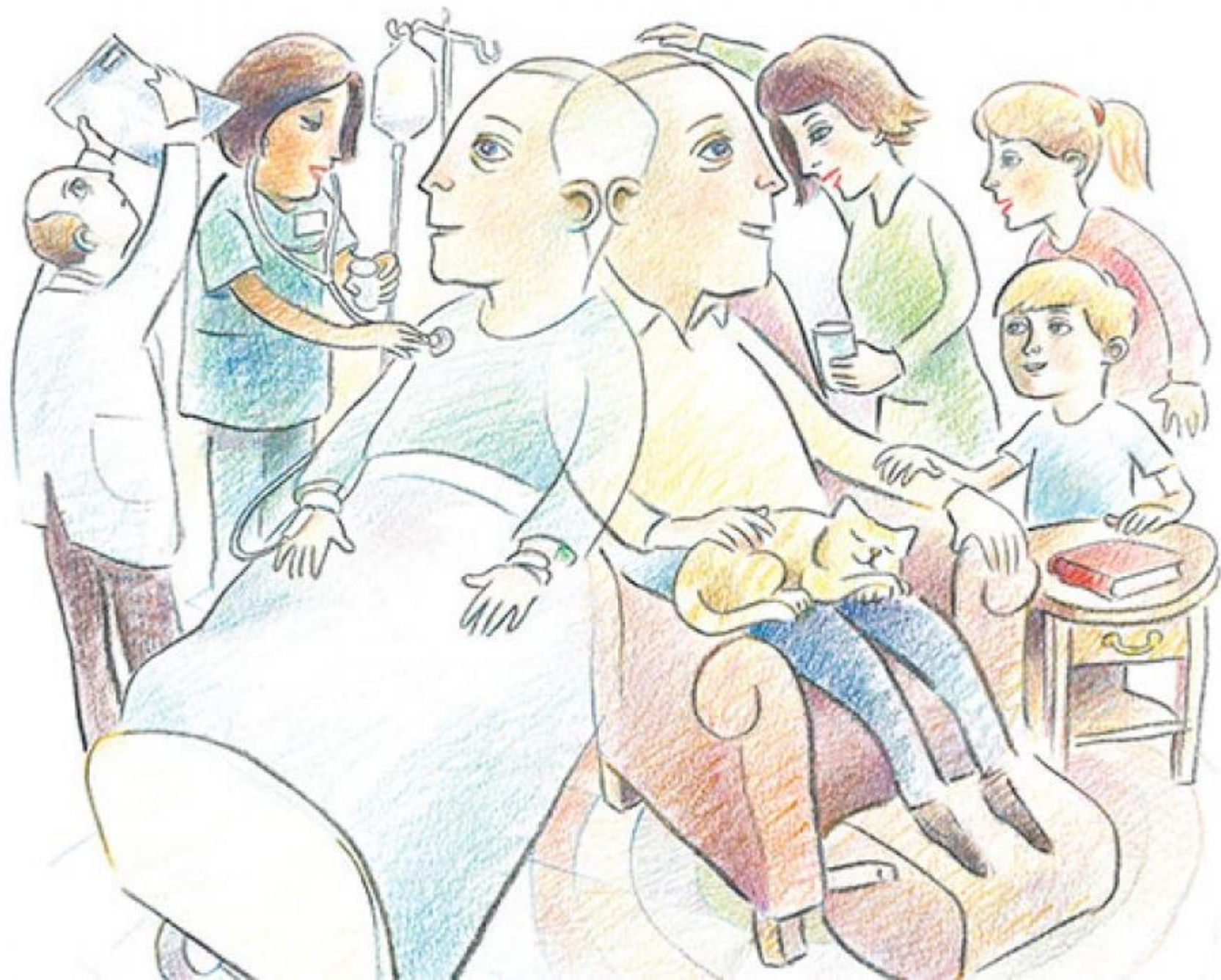
Timeline for Terminal Illness



Adapted from:

Lynn, J. (2005). "Living long in fragile health: The new demographics shape end of life care."

Hastings Cent Rep Spec No: S14-18.



Who Qualifies for Hospice?

- Prognosis of a terminal diagnosis certified by two physicians (one of which is hospice medical director) to be 6 months or less, if disease runs normal, natural course.
- No longer seeking curative treatment (ex. chemotherapy)
- Aggressive symptom management, but no curative treatment

Diagnoses Most Commonly Used for Hospice Referrals

- Cancer
- Cardiac – CHF, cardiomyopathy
- Pulmonary disease – COPD, pulmonary fibrosis
- Stroke
- Liver Disease
- Renal Failure
- Alzheimer's or other specific forms of dementia
- Advanced Neurologic Disease - Parkinson's, ALS

Hospice Principles

- Preventing and relieving pain and suffering
- Easing fear and anxiety
- Holistic - Physical, emotional and spiritual
- Providing comfort vs cure
- Promoting dignity
- Interdisciplinary
- Regards death as a natural process

The Start of Hospice

1967 in London, 1974 in
USA in Connecticut

“You matter because you
are you, and you matter
to the end of your life.
We will do all we can, not
only to help you die
peacefully, but also to live
until you die.”

- Dame Cicely Saunders



Interdisciplinary Team



Primary RN
On-Call RNs
Inpatient RNs

Child Life
Specialist

Myths of Hospice Care

- Hospice is a place.
- Hospice is only for people with cancer.
- Hospice is only for “old” people.
- Hospice is only for the person dying.
- Hospice is for people who don’t need a high level of care.
- Hospice is only for people who are DNR/AND.
- Hospice is only for people that can accept death.
- Hospice is only for those with insurance.
- Hospice patients can never see another doctor.
- When I choose hospice, I can never choose anything else.

Four Levels of Hospice Care

- **Routine Home Care**
 - Wherever the patient calls home
 - Most frequently delivered level of hospice care
- **Inpatient Care**
 - For uncontrolled symptoms that cannot be managed in the home
 - Symptoms requiring IV medications
- **Continuous Care**
 - Medical management in the home for up to 24 hours per day when medically appropriate
- **Respite Care**
 - Provides a break for primary caregiver
 - Inpatient setting
 - Limited to five consecutive days

Hospice Family Care – Inpatient Facility



[Inpatient Hospice Facility Video](#)











Hospice Family Care

*With gratitude to those whose generous gifts
helped to make this facility a reality.*

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