

## Hospice Levels of Care

The four hospice levels of care are designed to address the needs of the patient and their caregivers. Hospices who are Medicare certified are required to provide all four levels.

### Routine Home Care (RHC)

- This level of care is usually provided in the home and is the most common type of care in hospice.
- When a person is receiving this level of care, symptoms are adequately managed, and caregiver needs are met.

### General Inpatient Care (GIP)

- This level of care is designed to treat a patient's symptoms, like pain and shortness of breath, that are out of control.
- This care may be provided at a hospice inpatient unit, hospital or a skilled nursing facility that is staffed 24/7 by registered nurses.

### Continuous Home Care

- This level of care is also provided in the home setting when patient symptoms are not adequately managed under Routine Home Care.
- The hospice provides care consisting predominantly of nursing care for at least 8 hours in a 24-hour period at home.

### Respite Care

- Caregiving can be difficult and demanding for family members and friends.
- This level of care is designed to give the unpaid caregiver a rest by temporarily transferring the patient to a skilled nursing facility, hospice inpatient unit, or hospital for up to a 5-day period.
- Families can take a trip, go to a special event, or simply get a break from the demands of caregiving.
- Respite care can be taken more than once, but only on an occasional basis.