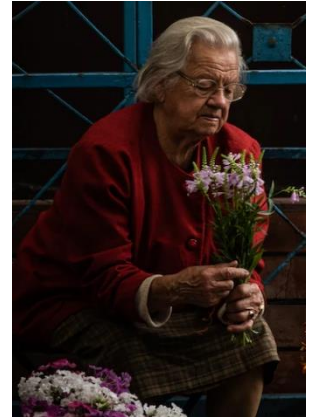




**HUMMINGBIRD  
HOSPICE**  
BECAUSE EVERY MOMENT MATTERS

# Hospice Care for Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome

Not so long ago, in the 1980's, people were on high alert concerning the immuno-deficient disease, HIV/AIDS. It was a time of worldwide panic when the public was uninformed and naive to this deadly issue and those who contracted this disease were subject to shunning and rejection from society. The medical community and public now have a better understanding of this disease and of the needs of HIV/AIDS sufferers concerning their treatments, medications, and hospice care. Our organization has made it our mission to provide the highest level of care for those in search of terminal care, understanding, and compassion.



## **When to Inquire About Hospice**

The right time to ask about Hummingbird Hospice and our services is now. The time to act on your inquiries is an individual decision. Each situation is different, as each patient is unique. The victims of HIV/AIDS normally receive diagnoses to live only six months or less. Things such as the decision to cease the aid of medical advances including breathing machines or feeding tubes will affect this window of time. At this stage of progression in the disease may be the right time to act and contact our organization for compassionate hospice care.

Qualified physicians are responsible for making the clinical determination if a patient is in need of our services. However, if a patient with HIV/AIDS is experiencing any or some of the following conditions; it may be time to enact our services for expert care:

- Reoccurring emergency medical needs
- Occurrence of a serious secondary life-threatening issue such as cervical or anal cancer, heart disease, or lymphoma
- High viral loads and low CD4 counts, which are not benefiting with antiviral therapy
- Multiple hospitalizations resulting in the desire for complete specialized care

For patients and their families who are still unsure if the time is right to enact our services for their hospice care, requesting an evaluation will get the answers and clear up any concerns. Physicians may suggest hospice care when they feel the time is right, but only the patient and their families are responsible for the decision. Contact us at 210-908-9774 to schedule an evaluation.

## How is Hospice Care Beneficial to HIV/AIDS Patients?

The care that our service provides gives the patient relief from pain and we create a stress free and peaceful environment to encourage our patient's utmost comfort, dignity, and peace. We design our hospice services to accommodate the needs of our HIV/AIDS victims. We are able to control and manage such things as:

**Pain management and opportunistic illnesses:** because of the lowered strength of the immune system, HIV/AIDS sufferers often develop secondary common illnesses and viruses. Our services are aware of these conditions and we provide the highest quality of pain management to ensure our patient's utmost comfort.

**Tailored care:** our services address all areas of the patient's needs including such things as reoccurring illnesses, skin care, pain management, nutrition, and proper hydration.

**Internal support:** our services are not limited to only the medical issues of HIV/AIDS management; we also offer support for emotional and spiritual concerns as well.

## What Benefits does Hummingbird Hospice Offer to the Families of Patients with HIV/AIDS?



Dealing with a loved one suffering from the HIV/AIDS virus is often very difficult for family and our services are here to help. We understand the needs for emotional support during the difficult times of hard decision-making and overwhelming conditions. Our services can assist in the areas of:

**Training and information:** our services help caregivers to understand the needs of the patient as the disease progresses, offering support and training.

**Decision making:** we are prepared to explain and lead family members through the most difficult of decisions that they will ever have to make.

**24/7 assistance:** we are available to offer support and information any time of the day or night. There is never a good time to have to deal with HIV/AIDS but we are available whenever your situation calls for assistance. Patients and their families will always have support with our services.

**Financial support:** our non-profit sister organization, Wings of Hope, may help with the burden of dealing with medical bills, cost of additional caregiving, or funeral expenses.

**Relief care and support:** the strain of dealing with an immune-deficient disease is often overwhelming. We offer caregivers a break for up to five days to regroup and step away from the stressful situation.

### Grief counseling

We realize that the death of a patient is not the end of the suffering for the affected family. We offer grief support for a year after passing to assure the family is able to adequately cope with their loss.

*Choosing hospice care doesn't mean that you've given up hope. Instead, hospice care means you're changing what you hope for.*

