

Can Suncoast Hospice Help?

Questions to Consider

You need good information to be able to make decisions that feel right to you. Knowing what questions to ask is a good place to start. These questions might help you find the answers you need.

Ask your doctor—

- How do you expect my condition to change in the next year?
- What symptoms might I experience?
- How might it change my ability to go about my daily routine or care for myself?
- What are my options for care?
 - What is the purpose of any treatment I am considering? Will it cure my illness or slow it down? Is the treatment focused on managing my symptoms?
 - How will this treatment affect the length of my life? The quality of that time?
 - Will the treatment make me feel sick?
 - Will it cause my pain to increase or decrease?
 - How will it affect other parts of my body?
 - How have other people responded to this treatment?
 - How long will the treatment continue?
 - How will it affect my ability to care for myself?
 - What other treatment choices could I consider?
- What do my family/friends need to know about my illness and treatment?
- What kinds of help might be useful? Home healthcare? Hospice care?



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Ask yourself—

- What am I most concerned about right now?
- What about my health is most important right now?
- What don't I understand about my illness and treatments?
- How do my decisions about my care fit with my values and priorities?
- What about my personal life with family and friends is most important to me?
- How are symptoms such as pain affecting my daily life?
- Have I talked with my family, friends and healthcare providers about my wishes?
- Have I chosen someone to make treatment decisions for me in case I am unable (healthcare surrogate, medical power of attorney)?
- Have I completed a living will to help my family and healthcare providers follow my wishes?
- What kind of help do I need right now?

Ask the people who care about you—

- What questions do you have about my illness and treatment?
- What are you worried about right now?
- What is most important to you right now?
- What kind of help or support do you need?
- If you would have to make treatment decisions for me, would you know what I want? How do you feel about making those decisions?

Suncoast Hospice can offer guidance and support as you adjust to the changes in your life. In addition to a listening ear, we can provide information about services and resources available to help you. Call Suncoast Hospice at (727) 586-4432.

To find a hospice near you, contact the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization help line at (800) 658-8898, or visit www.nhpco.org.



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