

## Nitty Gritty Hospice Checklist for Families

**The Basics:** There are many **lists of hospices online and good overall advice** on how to find a hospice service. The advice always includes checking on Medicare-certification and state licensing, and typically suggests obtaining references from care professionals.

**Medicare.gov/hospice compare** and **NHPCO.org** and **hospicefoundation.org** are good sources.

**The Checklist:** Use this Checklist to **explore important additional topics** with any potential hospice. In the Checklist we refer to the patient as “Mom” for convenience. We created the Checklist based on our work with many hospices.

Topics	Answers
✓How soon will a nurse make the first visit to my Mom?	
✓How many times a week will a nurse visit my Mom?	
✓How often will a social worker visit?	
✓Tell me about visits from your spiritual care team.	
✓How often will a bath aide visit my Mom?	
✓What's the name of the hospice doctor assigned to my Mom? ✓What organization does the doctor work for? ✓How soon should I expect the hospice doctor to visit?	
✓Will my Mom's regular doctor be involved?	

Topics	Answers
<p>✓When they visit, how will your team members identify themselves?</p>	
<p>✓What checking do you do on the background of your team members?</p>	
<p>✓Where are you located?                      ✓How quickly will a nurse get to my Mom when called?</p>	
<p>✓When I call in the middle of the night on Saturday, will I talk with a nurse?                      ✓Will that nurse have access to my Mom’s medical record?</p>	
<p>✓What education will you provide for my family about what to expect as my Mom gets closer to dying?</p>	
<p>✓On average, how many hours a week will members of your team spend with my Mom?</p>	
<p>✓Do you provide diapers, chux and gloves?                      ✓Do you provide bed sheets?                      ✓What other personal care supplies do you provide?</p>	
<p>✓Which of my Mom’s medications (prescription and non-prescription) will you pay for?                      ✓Which of my Mom’s medications won’t you pay for?                      ✓Are there medications that can be discontinued?                      ✓Which medications will you have delivered?                      ✓Are there medications we’ll have to pick up ourselves? If so, where?</p>	

Topics	Answers
If we sign up with you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓How soon will my Mom's hospice medications arrive?</li> <li>✓How soon will my Mom's hospice equipment arrive?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓What are the most important things you'll do for my Mom and my family?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Tell me about any financial relationship you or your hospice has with               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓The doctor who referred us to you?</li> <li>✓The discharge planner?</li> <li>✓The home care provider or care home?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Additional topics just for care at home:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓What will my family need to do to care for my Mom?</li> <li>✓Should we hire help?</li> <li>✓What training should hired help have?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓How much training will you give me and my family about               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓Giving medications?</li> <li>✓Turning and repositioning?</li> <li>✓Keeping Mom clean?</li> <li>✓Toileting?</li> <li>✓Feeding?</li> <li>✓Oral care?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If care at home is not working well, will you help us find an appropriate care home for my Mom?</li> </ul>	

## About Hospice

At Caring House we welcome residents who are using Medicare-certified hospice services.

Hospice service teams offer medical care and pain and symptom management, as well as spiritual support, counseling and education. Hospice team members visit our residents and provide vital support to them and their loved ones, in collaboration with our staff.

There are more than 900 Medicare-certified hospices in California. Our online directory at [www.yourcaringhouse.org/directory](http://www.yourcaringhouse.org/directory) lists Medicare-certified hospices that have already served one or more residents at Caring House.

## About Caring House

If you or a person you love is nearing the end of life, we can help you make the best of the remaining time.

Caring House is the first non-medical home in Los Angeles County totally focused on end-of-life care. We welcome men and women who are in the last weeks or days of their lives to a place of peace, comfort and support.

Freed from care and supervision duties, family members and friends are able to spend their time and energy supporting and connecting with their loved one and each other.

A five-bedroom home in a peaceful neighborhood, Caring House is a care home, not a hospice service.

**The end of life deserves  
as much beauty, care, honor and respect  
as the beginning.**

Caring House is an IRC 501(c)(3) nonprofit and donations are deductible as charitable contributions. Tax ID: 20-2201206

**Caring House | 310-796-6625 | [www.yourcaringhouse.org](http://www.yourcaringhouse.org) | RCFE #198602078**