



## **WHEN CHOOSING A HOSPICE, MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION.**

*Use this tool to compare hospices in your area.*

The following questions have been developed by the Mayo Clinic and the NHPCO (National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization), to help you make an educated decision regarding hospice care for you or your loved one.

	<b>Bridges Hospice</b>	Hospice 2:	Hospice 3:
How frequently does the hospice team visit the patient?	7-8 times per week or as needed		
How often does the nurse visit?	2-3 times per week and PRN		
How often does the aide visit?	5 times per week and PRN		
How often does the social worker visit?	2 times per month and PRN		
How often does the chaplain visit?	2 times per month and PRN		
What services are available when a patient is actively dying?	The Bridge program, our hospice staff visit 4 times per day. Continuous care available when appropriate		
What if I can't take care of my loved one at home?	Bridges can assist in coordinating placement to a personal care, skilled nursing facility, or hospice inpatient		
Who makes up the hospice care team? Will the care team remain consistent?	RN Case manager, Hospice Aide, Social Worker, Chaplain and Volunteers. We strive to keep the same staff in place for each patient.		
Does the hospice program have a dedicated pharmacy? Is the pharmacy familiar with hospice care and will they deliver medications as needed?	Bridges is proud to partner with local pharmacies in the Pittsburgh area that specialize in hospice care		
How are hospice care services provided after hours? Is care available 24/7?	On call nursing services are available from 5pm to 7 am every day. Bridges provides a dedicated on call team ready to visit our patients when needed.		
How long does it take to get accepted into a hospice program? Does the hospice do same day admissions?	Bridges is able to admit patients immediately once a physician order is provided and eligibility for hospice is confirmed by a Bridges RN		