

A special kind of
caring



BRIDGINGLIFE

Compassionate care for life's transitions

“

You matter to the last moment
of your life, and we will do
all we can, not only to help
you die peacefully, but to

live until you die.

”

Dame Cicely Saunders, 1968

FOUNDER OF THE FIRST MODERN HOSPICE
LONDON, ENGLAND



What is hospice?

Hospice is a patient-centered, family-oriented approach to care for anyone in the advanced stages of a life-limiting illness. By combining careful pain and symptom management with spiritual and emotional support, hospice enables patients to live out the remainder of their days in comfort and dignity, surrounded by those they love. Hospice care neither hastens death nor prolongs life, but allows the illness to take its natural course.

For families, hospice provides extensive grief support, both before and after the loss of a loved one.

our philosophy

- Provide patients with palliative care and effective pain and symptom management
- Help patients experience peace, comfort and dignity through the end of life
- Allow patients to make their own decisions regarding care and treatment
- Promote a caring community that is sensitive to the needs of hospice patients and their families
- Support family members and other caregivers in their efforts to care for their loved one
- Coordinate community resources to ensure continuity of care
- Offer grief support to families and the community



About BridgingLife

BridgingLife, formerly Carroll Hospice, is dedicated to ensuring the quality of life for patients through end-of-life care. Our holistic philosophy of treatment addresses patients' physical, emotional and spiritual needs, allowing them to live as fully and comfortably as possible. Whether caring for patients in their own homes, in healthcare settings such as nursing homes or in our beautiful inpatient facilities, we help patients make the most of each day while respecting their end-of-life wishes.

BridgingLife serves patients in Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick counties, Baltimore City and Pennsylvania. We are Medicare certified, licensed by the State of Maryland and accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP). We also are a member of the Hospice and Palliative Care Network of Maryland and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Where do patients receive hospice care?

Most hospice care is provided in the patient's choice of residence, including a private home, a nursing facility or an assisted living community. This allows patients to receive the care they need in a familiar setting. Home hospice care support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If an immediate need arises, an on-call nurse is available to address the concern.

A home away from home: Inpatient Care

Some patients require a level of care that cannot be provided in their current residence. In these instances, BridgingLife's inpatient facilities offer a warm, supportive environment that provides high quality care 24 hours a day from an expert team of professionals and volunteers dedicated to helping them live comfortably.

Families and visitors

We promote relationships with families, caregivers and loved ones, just as we do when caring for a patient at home. In fact, family and friends are encouraged to visit any time and may stay overnight if they wish.

Who provides hospice care?

Care is provided by our team of registered nurses, certified hospice aides, physicians, social workers, bereavement counselors, chaplains and volunteers. Team members work closely with each patient to provide effective pain and symptom management that respects his or her unique care and treatment preferences. Our on-call hospice team is available around the clock, seven days a week.

The physician's role in hospice care

The patient's primary care physician works with the hospice medical director and interdisciplinary team to develop a plan of care to ensure the patient's end-of-life needs are met.



How does BridgingLife help families?

While their loved one is enrolled in BridgingLife, we assist family members with day-to-day caregiving responsibilities and offer respite care—a short break for the responsibilities of caregiving.

We also provide support for at least 13 months following the death of a patient. Individual and group counseling for adults and children is available, along with a resource-filled bereavement center. BridgingLife's grief support groups and programs include:

- Mending Hearts – a monthly support group where parents and loved ones can receive support and advice on managing the complex emotions involved with the death of a child.
- Widows & Widowers Support Group – a monthly group open to individuals of all ages whose spouse has died.
- Camp T.R. – a weekend retreat for children ages 7 through 15. The annual camp combines recreational activities, such as art, swimming and music, with grief education and support.

For a full list of ongoing support groups, please visit bridginglifecare.org

When should hospice be contacted?

Hospice care is appropriate when patients and those who love them are in agreement with a palliative, comfort-oriented approach to care. Earlier referral to the hospice program allows the hospice team to fully understand what is important to the patient and tailor the plan of care to meet his or her unique needs.

Criteria for admission:

- Patient has a confirmed diagnosis of a life-limiting illness with a prognosis of six months or less
- Physician and patient have determined that curative therapy is no longer available or desired
- Patient, family and physician are aware of prognosis and agree with a comfort-oriented approach to care

If you are unsure whether you or your loved one is ready for hospice care, contact BridgingLife directly at 410-871-8000.

Who pays for hospice care?

While BridgingLife cares for all patients regardless of their ability to pay, Medicare, Medicaid and other medical assistance programs provide coverage for hospice services. Most commercial and private insurance companies offer a hospice benefit as well.





How can community members support BridgingLife?

BridgingLife pledges to care for all patients, regardless of their financial situation. To do this, we rely on the support of many generous organizations and individuals. You can support BridgingLife financially through the following:

- Gifts to BridgingLife
- In-kind contributions
- Memorial contributions
- Bequests
- Monetary gifts

To make a donation, call 410-871-7220 or visit bridginglifecare.org/make-a-gift

What about volunteer opportunities?

BridgingLife volunteers play a key role in our mission to provide patients with a dignified, comforting system of care during their final days. While some of our volunteers have professional skills or specialized expertise, most are people who want to help their friends and neighbors and serve the community.

Volunteers serve BridgingLife in a variety of capacities, such as providing companionship and respite care, organizing and supporting fundraising and outreach events, assisting with administrative tasks and serving as a camper “buddy” at Camp T.R., our weekend retreat for grieving children.

To learn more about BridgingLife volunteer opportunities, call 410-871-7228.

visit us online

bridginglifecare.org

- Access grief resources
- View our calendar of events
- Download newsletters and brochures
- Make a referral for hospice care
- Donate online



Frequently asked questions

Is hospice care only for the elderly?

Hospice care is available to people of all ages, including children who have been diagnosed with a progressive or life-limiting illness.

Who decides if hospice care is needed?

Together, the physician, patient and family determine when hospice care is needed and what services are necessary. A patient can receive hospice care when a life-limiting illness is present, and life expectancy is six months or less if the disease follows its normal course.

What is BridgingLife's service area?

We serve patients residing in Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick counties, Baltimore City and Pennsylvania.

What if a patient cannot receive care at home?

Our skilled social workers will assist patients and their families if alternative caregiving or living arrangements need to be made.

For patients requiring symptom management, BridgingLife's inpatient hospice units are available.

To learn more, call 410-871-8000.

Can BridgingLife patients continue to see their primary care physician?

Yes. The patient's primary care physician works closely with the hospice medical director and interdisciplinary team to develop a plan of care that ensures the patient's end-of-life preferences are met.

What if a patient's condition improves after he or she enters hospice?

If a patient improves while in hospice care, the hospice team works closely with the patient, family and physician to create a plan for discharge and ongoing care.

to learn more

Visit bridginglifecare.org or
call 410-871-8000.

From Baltimore: 410-876-8044

TTY users: 410-871-7186

Services are provided regardless of race, gender, age, religion,
national origin, disability, marital status or ability to pay.





BRIDGINGLIFE

A LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH PARTNER

Palliative Care ♦ Hospice Care ♦ Grief Support & More
Serving Carroll, Baltimore & Frederick counties,
Baltimore City & Pennsylvania

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