

# the truth *about Hospice Care*

**MYTH #1** *If I choose hospice care,  
I am giving up hope.*

When you choose hospice care, you are redefining hope. Our goal is to help you focus on making the most of life, which may come in many forms...hope for a final trip to see distant relatives, hope to be pain free, hope to spend as much time as possible with loved ones. The focus of your hospice team is to assist you with identifying your goals, fulfilling your wishes and maintaining hope throughout this journey.

**MYTH #2** *Only cancer patients can  
receive hospice care.*

Hospice care was created to provide assistance during the end of life journey regardless of diagnosis. In 2014, 73% of the Family LifeCare patients had a non-cancer diagnosis. Other common diagnoses in hospice are heart disease, dementia, kidney disease, lung disease, and liver disease.

**MYTH #3** *Hospice care means I can't  
keep my own physician.*

No one knows you better than your own physician. This is why Family LifeCare encourages you to remain with your own physician who then becomes a part of our hospice team. Our hospice physicians will work closely with your physician to develop a plan of care that incorporates your personal goals.

**MYTH #4** *Hospice care is only for patients  
who are near death.*

Receiving hospice care does not mean you are near death. It means you have chosen a different level of care that focuses on comfort versus cure. Our hospice team provides unique physical, emotional and spiritual care. The sooner our hospice team becomes involved with you and your loved ones, the sooner we can work together and ensure your comfort. One commonality that we find amongst our patients is that once they have chosen hospice services, their quality of life improves.

*We want to help!*

Family LifeCare understands that choosing hospice care can be difficult. To ease your concerns regarding hospice care and other end-of-life issues, allow our Community Resource Specialists to assist you with your concerns. To learn about resources available to you and your loved one during this journey, call 800-355-2817. ☒

