



When Will I Know It's Time to Call?

An assessment guide for non-medical people

It's never too soon to call Iowa City Hospice.

End-of-life care may be difficult to discuss, but it's best to learn about the options, and for family members to share their wishes, long before it becomes a concern. We encourage anyone—family members, clergy, friends, medical professionals—to contact us to learn more about Iowa City Hospice's services.

Our staff can offer guidance about how to raise the subject of hospice. Listed below are some statements that may indicate the need for end-of-life care.

Listen for these three criteria:

- 1. A serious illness without expectation of cure*
- 2. A deteriorating situation for patient and caregivers*
- 3. A need for additional support or services*

Individuals may make these kinds of statements:

- "I want to keep Charlie at home as long as I can."
- "I wish we had some help but our kids have their own lives and families to take care of."
- "I'm scared to think what the future holds for us."
- "Is there anyone in our family/neighborhood/church group who can help me bathe and dress Gladys?"
- "What if I (caregiver) get sick? What will we do then?"
- "I always thought my faith was strong 'til now. Why is God letting this happen to us?"
- "I wish we could afford to hire help."
- "These trips to the hospital are taking a toll on our whole family."
- "I doubt that I/we will make it to the holiday celebrations."
- "I know my mother will die eventually, I just want the time that she has left to be good."

Iowa City Hospice can help.

Individuals can complete the "refer a patient" form at www.iowacityhospice.org, or contact us at 319-351-5665, 800-897-3052 or info@iowacityhospice.org. Or, if it's appropriate, we can contact the individual directly.

Thank you for helping ensure everyone in our community has ACCESS to Iowa City Hospice's exceptional care!