

Hospice at Home



Dying is Inevitable, Suffering is Optional

How to Prepare
Your Home for the Hospice Patient

Table of Contents

2) How to Prepare Your Home for the Hospice Patient

2) Getting Started

3) Creating the Patient's Room

4) Basic Equipment to Make Life Easier

- Hospital Bed
- Supporting Mattress
- Over Bed Table
- Trapeze
- Walker
- Wheel Chair
- 3-in-1 Commode
- Oxygen
- Wash Basin
- Medicine Dispensing Unit

5) Other Resources

- Portable Suction
- Liquid oxygen
- Hoyer Lift
- Portable oxygen tank and tank carrier
- A bell or intercom
- Baby monitors
- Urinals and bedpans
- Private Duty Caregiver

6) General Supplies

- Towels
- Urinals and Bedpans
- Everyday Bedside Supplies

7) Anticipating Future Need

8) Preparing Yourself as the Caregiver

9) Conclusion

How to Prepare Your Home for the Hospice Patient

There are a number of things you can do to prepare your home so you can use it to easily and comfortably care for a loved one receiving hospice care. These range from securing medical equipment--often available at no cost through the hospice provider--to making the most of the space available. There are also things you can do to support yourself through the process.

Providing hospice care at home for a loved one can be a positive experience with many opportunities for closeness and closure not readily available any other place.

One advantage is that home is a familiar place, which alleviates a great deal of stress on the patient, yourself, and the family at a time when you all have plenty of other things to deal with. Another is that it's convenient, which makes it easier for family and visitors to relax and be more natural.

Though most of us have forgotten, the fact is that it was only relatively recently that people were shipped off to a hospital to die. It was far more common only a couple generations or so ago for people to go through the final stages of life at home.

“It was far more common only a couple generations or so ago for people to go through the final stages of life at home.”

With the increasing numbers of people who are now choosing in-home hospice, a whole range of equipment and products have been developed to provide a labor-saving and comfort-producing home care environment.

Getting Started

There are a number of considerations in outfitting a home for hospice care, probably chief among them being budget and what is covered by your hospice care provider. How much room you have and how much assistance you can expect are also major factors in the equation. Is there going to be an outside caregiver to help the husband or wife or adult child caregiver? Do you have a room you can dedicate to hospice care?

If a patient has the financial capacity and the physical environment to dedicate an area of the house for hospice care, then you can get very elaborate with equipment and other paraphernalia. However, even with modest means, there are many things to support you in making the job easier.