PARADIGM HEALTH

# Hospice and Palliative Care Options or Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease

**Alzheimer's Disease Facts:**

- An estimated 6.7 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in 2023.
- Alzheimer's disease is the fifth-leading cause of death among Americans aged 65 and older.
- Hospital readmission rates are 21.5 percent for patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

| Paradigm Health Palliative Care: | VS | Paradigm Health Hospice Care: |
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| • Palliative care symptom management and education is provided by a nurse practitioner led team with up to 3 disciplines. | | • Physical, social, spiritual, and emotional care are provided by a hospice physician led interdisciplinary team consisting of patients and their families, professionals, and volunteers. |
| • The individualized plan of care is based on patient goals of care and medical need. Individualized visit frequency is lower than hospice care (typically every 30-45 days). | | • The individualized plan of care is based on a holistic approach to meeting the patient's and family's goals of care. Individualized visit frequencies are higher than palliative care. |
| • Offers comprehensive symptom management in collaboration with other providers with a goal to reduce avoidable ER visits and hospitalizations. | | • Offers comprehensive symptom management through an intensive program that focuses on comfort and promotes quality of life for individuals and their families. Utilizes pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions. |
| • Works alongside any desired aggressive disease treatment. | | |
| • Provides Alzheimer's Disease progression and treatment option education along with goals of care discussions and assistance with navigating the health care system, including putting together advance directives. | | • Provides end of life education in the context of the individual's goals and values. The individual's choice and decision regarding care are paramount and followed at all times. |
| • Medical supplies, equipment and medications are covered through insurance or private pay. | | • Hospice medical supplies, equipment and medications are covered by Hospice agency. |
| • Palliative care can be provided wherever an individual calls home and is billed through Medicare part B or private insurance. | | • State-of-the-art palliative and support services are available to individuals 24-hours a day in both home and facility-based settings. |
| | | • Family caregivers and/or inner circle are offered bereavement care for 13 months following death of their loved one. |

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# WHEN TO SCHEDULE A HOSPICE OR PALLIATIVE CARE CONSULTATION

**When an individual begins to experience one or more of the criteria below, it may be time to ask for a hospice or palliative care consultation. If you are a loved one has noticed:**

- A decreased desire to eat or taking longer to eat meals
- Documented or consistent, progressive weight loss
- Worsening mobility and function
- Requiring more assistance to bathe/dress and ambulate
- Frequent infections/wounds that are not healing
- An increase in sitting or being bed bound
- Increased napping/hours of sleep
- Increased confusion
- Increased difficulty communicating

> *The time we had the extra care of the Paradigm Health Palliative and Hospice team was such a blessing. We wish we had engaged in your services sooner.*
>
> – PATIENT'S SPOUSE

## It is never too early to begin exploring care options.

For a free consultation or to discuss goals of care and care options contact Paradigm Health.

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*We are available 24/7 for patients, referrals and inquiries.*