



Checklist for Choosing a Hospice Facility

Name of Hospice Facility: _____

Coping with the news that a loved one is terminally ill is not easy for any family. Making informed decisions about care needs may be difficult. Hospice care can alleviate some of the family’s responsibility while providing support and promoting dignity at the end-of-life.

When making a decision about a hospice facility that best meets your family’s needs, you can use this checklist.

What to Look for When You Visit the Hospice Facility	Yes	No	Comments
Does the hospice facility offer the needed health care services?			
Is the hospice program certified, licensed and reviewed by the state?			
Is the hospice facility Medicare-certified?			
Does the hospice staff, work closely with the patient and loved ones to honor the patient’s wishes?			
Does the facility offer services to help the patient and loved ones deal with their grief and loss?			
Does the facility offer respite care (relief for the caregiver), including inpatient accommodations?			
Does the hospice facility offer spiritual and emotional support for the patient and family?			
Does the facility offer bereavement services?			
Does the hospice physician work closely with the patient’s primary doctor?			
How many patients are assigned to each hospice staff member at one time?			

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Will the patient and family members have input in the development of the patient’s care plan?			
How is pain evaluated and managed?			
Does the hospice staff respond quickly to requests for additional pain medication?			
How does the facility handle after-hour emergencies? Is there a chaplain or social worker available after-hours?			
Does the hospice facility take extra steps to ensure quality?			
Is the provider in compliance with the state of Georgia’s Hospice Rules and Regulations?			

Visit ors.dhr.georgia.gov for compliance history.

You can use the “Search For Care” application on the georgiahealthinfo.gov Web site to find a hospice facility in your area.