

Hospice Care for ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)

Providing Comfort and Support for Patients and Families

ALS is a progressive, neurodegenerative disease affecting voluntary muscle control. Hospice care offers compassionate, specialized support for patients in the end stages of ALS, focusing on symptom management and quality of life.

When to Consider Hospice for ALS

Consider hospice when patients experience:

Critically Impaired Respiratory Function

- Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) < 40% predicted
- Difficulty breathing at rest or when lying flat
- Increased respiratory rate (>20) or weakened cough
- Sleep-disordered breathing symptoms

Severe Nutritional Insufficiency

- Difficulty swallowing leading to >5% weight loss
- With or without a gastrostomy tube for feeding

Patient's Choice

- Decision against artificial ventilation or feeding

Benefits of Hospice Care

For Patients:

- Expert symptom management (pain, shortness of breath)
- Respiratory support (non-invasive interventions)
- Nutritional guidance and support
- Coordinated care with neurologists
- Emotional support and counseling

For Families:

- Education on caregiving and disease progression
- 24/7 access to care professionals
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Relief from caregiver stress

How Hospice Helps ALS Patients Live Fully

Hospice enables patients to live comfortably by:

- Managing symptoms effectively
- Reducing hospital visits



- Providing peace of mind for patients and families
 - Allowing families to focus on quality time together
- By choosing hospice early, families can maximize precious moments without the stress of frequent hospital visits and invasive treatments.

**Call Home Health & Hospice
of Kansas today and ask for a
Hospice consultation.
316.869.0015**

A HOSPICE STORY

Meet David

David's Story: Finding Peace with Hospice in the Fight Against ALS
David, always the strong one, had built a successful business and raised two children with his wife, Sarah. But at 65, he was diagnosed with ALS. What began as weakness in his legs quickly escalated. Soon, David's life became a cycle of medical appointments, equipment, and the slow loss of muscle control. His daughter, Emily, a nurse, saw the signs—difficulty breathing, a weakened cough, and weight loss from trouble swallowing. Watching her father struggle to speak, confused and exhausted, was heartbreaking. David used a BiPAP machine at night, but it no longer seemed to help. His breathing grew shallow, and panic filled his eyes as he gasped for air.

Emily knew it was time for hospice, but her father's doctor was reluctant. "We can try increasing his respiratory support," he suggested. But Emily pushed back. "We need to focus on quality of life. My dad can't breathe or eat without suffering, and we're spending more time managing crises than enjoying his last days."

The doctor agreed. Emily called hospice, and from that moment, everything changed. The hospice team managed David's breathing, pain, and swallowing difficulties, bringing calm to their home. Most importantly, it gave the family time to be with him.

David's final months were spent in a way they never thought possible—comfortable and surrounded by family. Hospice allowed him to stay at home, not hooked up to machines in a sterile hospital room, but sitting in the living room with his wife and children. They reminisced about old times, shared quiet moments, and laughed when they could. Emily was by his side, knowing she had made the right decision, even though it was a tough fight to get there. When David passed, it wasn't in pain or fear. He died peacefully, with his family by his side, in the home he had built with love.

At the funeral, **Emily spoke about her journey. "It wasn't easy to get there," she said, "but hospice gave us back my dad. It gave us peace. If I hadn't asked for hospice, we would've lost so much of that precious time together. Don't wait until it's too late."**

David's story shows that choosing hospice isn't giving up—it's choosing to live fully, even in the final stages of a disease like ALS. It's about making the most of the time you have, ensuring comfort, and focusing on what truly matters: love, family, and peace. Consider hospice early—it can make all the difference.

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Hospice patients
with **ALS**
have specific
supportive
care needs.



**Home Health &
Hospice of KANSAS**

HOME HEALTH * HOSPICE * CARE PLUS PALLIATIVE

Home Health & Hospice of Kansas - Home Health, Hospice, Palliative Care & Home Plus

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