



Worksheet: How to Choose a Hospice.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, it is important to make sure you select the best hospice provider for end-of-life support. Your doctor may recommend a hospice, but ultimately, the choice is yours. When selecting a hospice, use this checklist of questions to ensure you choose the hospice that best meets your needs.

- 1 How often will the hospice staff visit?** Medicare requires a registered nurse to visit hospice patients at least once every two weeks. However, it's important to find a hospice that will address your specific needs.

VistaRiver	Hospice #2	Hospice #3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurses visits. Our goal is at least 2x a week• Aides, social workers and chaplains visits. Our goal is at least one a week.		

- 2 How do they provide care during the final 7 days of life?** The national average for hours of care per day during the last 7 days of life is .58 hours.* Find out if the hospice provider will increase care at the very end of life.

VistaRiver	Hospice #2	Hospice #3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average care per day = Our goal is 1.38 hours• More Care – We exhaust every effort to provide continuous care around the clock		

- 3 What is the hospice's admission process?** Selecting a hospice able to handle the admission process at a time and location convenient for you and your family ensures care can start quickly.

VistaRiver	Hospice #2	Hospice #3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24/7/365 admissions• Weekends and holidays• Will meet you at your home, office, healthcare facility – anywhere		

4

How does the hospice respond to an emergency? If an urgent need arises after hours, will the person who answers the phone be from an answering service or someone from the hospice's dedicated staff? Be sure that your middle-of-the-night calls are not overlooked or dropped by an answering service.

VistaRiver	Hospice #2	Hospice #3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffed with VistaRiver employees 24/7/365 		

5

Does the hospice offer additional services? All hospices must provide patients and their families with a team of medical experts and emotional support staff, medication related to the terminal illness, necessary medical supplies, volunteers and bereavement support. Some hospices offer services in addition to the basic level of care.

VistaRiver		Hospice #3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized support for Veterans • Memory Bears • Volunteer Matchmaking 		

*Source: National Centers of Medicare and Medicaid PUF report. 2015