

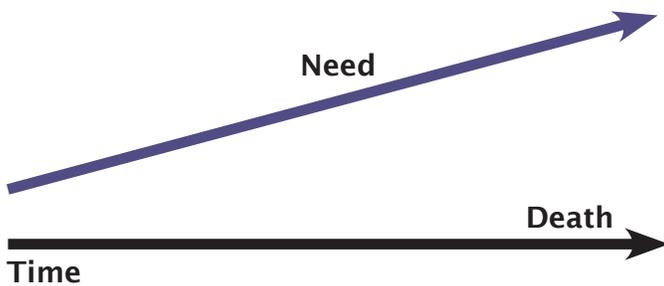
# The Difference Between Hospice and Home Health

**There is a difference between the emphases of hospice and home health.**

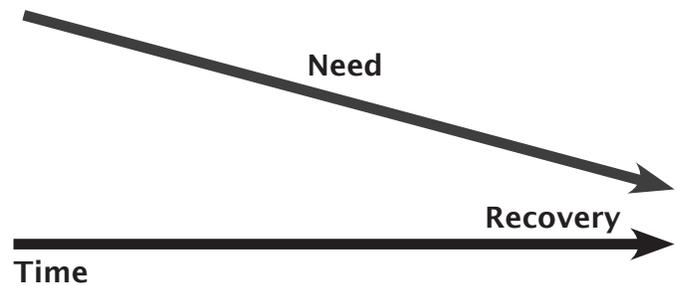
*Hospice focuses on the quality of life and comfort of the patient. Hospice specialists have the experience and training in pain and symptom management as well as support services providing counseling and education to the patient and family.* Home health generally focuses on patient rehabilitation and traditional medical management.

*Hospice covers the cost of medications related to the terminal illness and symptoms.* Home health usually does not cover medications. *Hospice covers usual and customary medical supplies and equipment such as hospital beds, commodes, walkers, and wheelchairs.* Home health patients usually need to qualify for the equipment and supplies. *In hospice care, the patient does not have to be homebound.* With home health, the patient must be homebound.

## Hospice



## Home Health



*Hospice focus is on the needs of the patient and the family. The plan of care is focused to provided increased care to the patient, and support to the family as time goes forward. Their needs will increase as death comes closer.* Home health's focus is taking a patient with high needs and reducing those needs until they recover from the illness or accident. Other traditional medical providers follow the same approach to care as home health.

Hospice care is often misunderstood in the medical community because of this kind of approach. Many medical professionals, outside of hospice, will only focus on the physical needs a patient has, like "getting them out of pain," then claim they delivered successful care. While physical issues are important, hospice also addresses the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the patient, and also their family and friends. The number one fear patients and families have relating to the end-of-life experience is that of being alone. *Hospice puts great emphasis on not only the physical, but also the emotional, social, and spiritual needs the patient and family.*