

Questionnaire for Screening Hospice

	Yes	No	Other responses
Are you accredited? If yes, by whom? The Joint Commission on Accreditation of health care Organizations or the State Department of Health? (Note: Being accredited by one of these organizations means that they voluntarily sought accreditation and are committed to providing quality care.)			
Are you licensed? If yes, by whom?			
What is your admissions policy? Do patients need to be referred by a physician? Are there specific criteria? Can you explain the parameters and how my parent may qualify? (If it is residential hospice, do they offer other services such as short-term respite care?)			
Are you certified by Medicare and/or Medicaid?			
What is the timetable for initiating services? How much lead time is required?			
Who is in charge of my parent's care? How is the staff trained? Are the caregivers licensed and bonded?			
Who provides the plan of care? Who monitors the plan of care? Who fills the med box?			
If there is a home health agency also working as part of the team, who ultimately has the final say? Can I see a sample plan of care?			
Who conducts the preliminary evaluation? Is it done by a nurse or social worker, or by the head nurse from the health care agency if there is such an agency in place? What does it highlight? Does it address what my parent can do for himself/herself? Who is involved in the evaluation—my parent's primary care physician, family members, etc.?			
If I have a grievance, what is the procedure? What is the chain of command?			
How long has this hospice been in business? Can I get some references? (Of course, if they are the only game in town and you need hospice, then this may be moot.)			
Residential Hospice			
Do you offer other services such as short-term respite care?			

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What are the costs, and how are payment and billing handled? (Note: Before services are provided, you usually sign a contract that outlines what is going to be provided. Make sure they leave a copy of the contract with you. Ask if they can assist your parent in finding financial assistance if needed. Also ask if there are payment plans.)			
Do you require that there be a designated family primary caregiver as a condition of admission? How much flexibility do you provide? Will you work with me around my schedule? What can you offer a parent who lives alone and has family members who are far away?			
What is the staffing ratio?			
How long can a patient stay?			
Who is in charge of my parent's care?			
What are the visiting hours? Can pets come to visit?			
If it turns out that my parent exceeds the 6-month limit, can he or she stay on? If not, what is the mechanism either to return home or go back to assisted living or the nursing home? (Note: When you are asking all of these questions, you in essence are interviewing those who will be responsible for your parent's care. Do they seem compassionate and caring? Watch them interact with your parent. If you were in your parent's shoes, how would that interaction make you feel?)			