

H37 Choosing Hospice

September 2007

Intro: Imagine this: you have a serious illness and have been given only months to live. How would you want to spend your last days? In the hospital, a nursing home or what about in your own home or that of a loved one? With hospice care you can make that choice. You can live your last days surrounded by people who care. More from the staff at Mayo Clinic.

Video

Total running time 1:48

**Esther Mathews
In Hospice Care**

**Standup
Vivien Williams
Reporting**

Audio

“REMEMBER THIS?”

ESTHER MATTHEWS IS DYING OF
CANCER. BUT INSTEAD OF LIVING
HER LAST MONTHS IN A HOSPITAL
OR NURSING HOME, SHE'S AT
HOME WITH HER DAUGHTER JOAN
AND SON-IN-LAW LOREN.

“I'M HAPPY I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO
A NURSING HOME.”

THANKS TO HOSPICE CARE.

HOSPICE IS NOT AN ATTEMPT AT
PROLONGING LIFE OR HASTENING
DEATH. IT'S A PHILOSOPHY OF
CARE THAT ALLOWS PATIENTS
AND THEIR FAMILIES TO MAKE THE
DYING PROCESS AS POSITIVE AS

Joan Grosso
Esther's Daughter

POSSIBLE.

“WE’VE HAD THIS WONDERFUL
TIME TOGETHER. I KNOW THAT I
COULD NEVER HAVE DONE THIS
ON MY OWN.”

HOSPICE ADDRESSES MEDICAL,
PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND
SPIRITUAL NEEDS. DOCTORS
NURSES, SOCIAL WORKERS,
CHAPLAINS AND VOLUNTEERS
WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE
PATIENTS MAINTAIN DIGNITY AND
CONTROL. MELVIN PEPPER’S WIFE
LORNA CHOSE HOSPICE WHEN
SHE WAS DYING OF CANCER. NOW
MELVIN’S A HOSPICE PATIENT
TOO. HIS 86-YEAR-OLD BODY IS
FAILING.

**To Melvin Pepper, pictures of wife
Lorna**

To Melvin with nurse Joleta Smith
Joleta Smith, R.N.
Hospice Nurse

“LET ME JUST CHECK YOUR HEART
HERE.”

THREE DAYS A WEEK A NURSE
VISITS HIM.

Melvin Pepper
In Hospice Care

“WHEN SHE LEAVES I DON’T FEEL
EMPTY. I FEEL FILLED TO THE BRIM
WITH LOVE.”

MELVIN ALSO GETS VISITS FROM
JIM, A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER WHO
ADMITS IT CAN BE TOUGH TO
GROW CLOSE TO SOMEONE
WHO’S NEARING END OF LIFE.

Jim
Hospice Volunteer

“RATHER THAN EMPHASIZE THE
LOSS, I THINK WE TRY TO
EMPHASIZE THE DAYS WE HAVE
LEFT AND MAKE THEM THE BEST
WE CAN.”

Sandy Stensland, R.N.
Hospice Nurse

“I REMEMBER MY EARLY DAYS OF
NURSING WHEN PEOPLE DIED
ALONE IN A ROOM. I THOUGHT
THIS IS NOT RIGHT. AND NOW WITH
HOSPICE WHERE PEOPLE CAN BE
IN AN ENVIRONMENT LIKE THIS
WITH THEIR FAMILY, SURROUNDED
BY LOVE, SURROUNDED BY
FRIENDS AND BE IN THEIR OWN
HOME IS WONDERFUL.”

FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medical Assistance and most commercial insurers. Patients are eligible for this care whether they're at home, in assisted living, in a group home or a nursing home.

For more information, visit our website at...

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