



# A Step by Step Guide on What to Expect

*Compassionate discharge: A special arrangement to transfer a dying patient out of hospital to spend final days at home.*

## ① Initiate the Referral

When a patient in hospital is expected to die in 1 to 7 days wishes to return home, you may call our compassionate discharge hotline at **9277 7100** to put up a request

## ② Discuss and Plan

Joint discussion between you, the hospital and the home hospice team (where feasible)

- Suitability for compassionate discharge
- Patient's condition and care needs
- Caregiver's coping
- Discharge logistics
- Types of support available at home
- Caregiver training required
- Home hospice services

## ③ Facilitate the Discharge

Once discharge is confirmed, the hospital will prepare by:

- **Training caregivers** on how to care for your loved one at home
- **Referring to home hospice** for continued support
- **Providing important information**, educational materials, and medications
- **Arranging transport and necessary equipment** (e.g. oxygen concentrator)

## ④ Home Care Support

The ambulance will bring your loved one home. Upon reaching home, the home hospice team visits within the same or next working day. Visit frequency depends on needs, but **24/7 assistance** is available via our helpline

## Guiding You Through Your Decision

- Is everyone at home agreeable for the discharge? Having supportive family members will help everyone cope with physical and emotional stress during this challenging time.
- Is there someone available round the clock to provide physical care? Sharing care duties is important so that everyone can take turns to rest, and that your loved one receives the care he or she needs at all times.
- There is a possibility that your loved one may live beyond the expected lifespan of short hours or days. You may want to consider alternative care options if continued caregiving is required.
- Everyone will have different needs during their last days of life. Some people may have symptoms that can be challenging to manage at home. If this is the case, you may want to consider allowing your loved one to be cared for in an inpatient hospice. This may also enable you to spend more quality time with him or her.

*Regardless of the decision, the care team will guide and assist you throughout this care journey.*

## Caregiver Video Guides



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