

## End of Life Issues

**Also called: Death and dying, Terminal care**

Sometimes, in spite of treatment, a condition or illness will cause death. In those cases, patients can decide what they do and do not want done.



They can decide whether they want aggressive treatment that might prolong life or whether they prefer to stop treatment, which could mean dying sooner but more comfortably.

They may want to plan their own funeral. Advance directives can help make the patient's wishes clear to families and health care providers.

Care at the end of life focuses on making patients comfortable. They still receive medicines and treatments to control pain and other symptoms.

Some patients choose to die at home. Others enter a hospital or a hospice. Either way, services are available to help patients and their families deal with issues surrounding death.