

Myths and questions - Severn Hospice care is more than you think



Registered Charity 512394



Myth - Severn Hospice is just for people who are about to die

Fact - We provide palliative care - specialist care and support for people living with an illness that may not get better - whatever the stage of their illness. Life-limiting incurable illnesses take many forms and people can live with them for many years. Palliative care can be introduced at any stage of a terminal illness alongside active treatment – not just at end of life – helping patients live as well as possible for as long as possible. Palliative care provided by Severn Hospice starts from the moment a patient is referred to us.

Myth - Hospice palliative care is only for the elderly

Fact - Our specialist care is available to adults aged 18 and over with a palliative, life-limiting diagnosis. Our Patient and Family Support Services provide bereavement support to children under 18, both before and after bereavement. They also offer emotional support to family members and carers of anyone who has died in our care, providing guidance and comfort for all ages.

Myth - Severn Hospice is the same as Macmillan

Fact - No, we are a completely separate organisation to the Macmillan charity and its nurses. All our caring teams work for Severn Hospice and wear our logo on their uniforms with pride.





Myth - Hospices are sad, depressing, sombre places

Fact - We have worked really hard to make our wards feel warm, friendly and as far away from a clinical space as possible. Patient rooms are all private, with en suite facilities, flat-screen TVs, smart speakers and good Wi-Fi. They have doors opening to our award-winning gardens. Family and friends are encouraged to visit - even pets are welcome. (We've just had a pony visit the ward at Telford!) Our aim is to create a proper home-from-home feeling so our patients and their visitors can relax.

Myth - Hospice palliative care is only for people with religious beliefs

Fact - Severn Hospice Care is for everyone regardless of faith or beliefs.

Myth - Hospice care is clinical care

Fact - We care for the whole person - a patient's physical and emotional wellbeing. As well as clinical care, our services range from physiotherapy, complementary therapy and creative therapy to spiritual and emotional care, practical support from our social worker team, and religious support if requested. We also have music, walking, horticulture and reader groups and bereavement support. And we don't just care for patients, we care for their families and those closest to them.

Myth - You have to be on a hospice ward to receive hospice care

Fact - We care for around 3,000 patients a year, with four out of five receiving our care in their home. Our community services are provided by specialist nurses and health care assistants through a combination of home visits and telephone consultations, and include clinics and therapy sessions where patients who are able to come to us. We've even pioneered a Virtual Hospice - consultant-led hospice-level care at home for patients who need extra help but don't need to go to hospital or be admitted to the hospice.

Myth - Hospice and palliative care is only for people with cancer

Fact - Anyone diagnosed with an incurable and life-limiting illness, such as heart failure, motor neurone disease (MND), kidney failure, and chronic respiratory diseases like COPD, can be referred to Severn Hospice.

Myth - Severn Hospice provides respite care

Fact - The wards are not a long-term care facility like a nursing home and don't offer respite care. We are a specialist palliative and end-of-life care provider and our wards are for the most poorly patients and those who need complex symptoms to be managed. Patients leave once ward care is no longer needed.



Myth - You have to pay for hospice care

Fact - All care provided by Severn Hospice is completely free of charge to patients and their families. Care is funded through charitable donations, fundraising, gifts in wills, legacies, our portfolio of shops, and a contribution from the local NHS. The hospice is a wholly independent charity and has to raise £2 for every £3 it spends on care - last year we had to raise more than £10 million in total.

Myth - Accepting hospice care means 'giving up'

Fact - We help patients live as well as and as independently as they can within the constraints of their illness. We focus on improving symptoms to enhance their quality of life and to help them.

Myth - A syringe driver means death is imminent

Fact - A syringe driver is a simple device that delivers medication, such as pain relief or anti-sickness drugs, at a continuous, controlled rate. It helps manage symptoms effectively while still allowing patients to remain mobile, go about their daily activities, and even leave home or spend time outside.



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