ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet provides an overview of what hospice is, how it works and what types of services are offered. It also includes topics for patients and their loved ones to discuss so that they can plan and make informed decisions about end-of-life care. This booklet is written for both pancreatic cancer patients who are facing end of life and their loved ones.

This booklet discusses many different aspects of hospice and end-of-life care. While learning about these issues may be upsetting, having this information will help you and your loved ones make the best decisions for your situation. The profound emotions that come with thinking about end of life are not discussed at length. If you feel overwhelmed by the information presented or if you would like help with emotional aspects, talk to someone you trust, such as a family member, friend, healthcare team member, social worker, faith-based advisor or mental health professional. Help is available and you do not have to face these decisions alone.

To find a professional in your area who can help, contact the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network’s Patient Central toll-free at 877-272-6226 or email patientcentral@pancan.org. Patient Central Associates are available Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pacific Time.

Since most hospice care is provided at home, this booklet discusses the role of caregivers who are providing care in a home setting. The terms “family” and “loved ones” represent all of the people that care about the patient, including relatives, spouses, partners, children and friends. The term “caregiver” refers to whoever is providing most of a patient’s day-to-day care, whether that person is a spouse, partner, child, sibling, relative, friend or privately hired person.

A glossary is provided at the end of this booklet for bold words in the booklet’s text.