HOSPICE MYTHS AND THEIR REALITY BY: Melissa Jeremiah, RN, CHCE

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Many people do not get the hospice care they so greatly deserve, due to misconceptions they have regarding hospice care.

Hospice Myths & Their Reality:

If I sign up for hospice it means I am giving up: Actually people on hospice are found to live 29 days longer than their counterparts who do not sign up for hospice care, according to a study in the Journal of Pain & Symptom Management. Many patients have an increase in their quality of life, after getting the symptoms under control.

If I sign up for hospice I cannot take any of my medications, since this is a treatment: Symptom control is one of hospices key goals, and includes medications. This means hospice works with you, and your family, to see that your pain is managed and your other symptoms are under control.

Hospice is only for people who have cancer: Hospice is for anyone who is in the last phase of an incurable illness; including, but not limited to COPD, CHF, Alzheimer's and Stroke.

If you have questions about hospice or have someone you would like to refer to hospice services please feel free to contact Hoosier Uplands Hospice at 800-827-2219 or 812-849-4447 and ask for Linda Fisher, RN, Patient Care Coordinator.