



Myths and facts about hospice

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MYTH

"Hospice is necessary only during the last few days of life."

FACT

Hospice care is necessary during the last 6 to 12 months of a serious, incurable illness when the patient's condition is worsening despite medical treatment.

MYTH

"Hospice is a house where dying people are placed."

FACT

Hospice is a philosophy, a range of services and an organizational system = an interdisciplinary-care model.

MYTH

"Only cancer patients are accepted for hospice."

FACT

In Hungary it is primarily cancer patients who are accepted, but not in other countries.

MYTH

"There is no difference between hospice and a terminal ward." "There is nothing to do but hold the dying person's hand."

FACT

Hospice involves specialized care, which is different from chronic, nursing and social care. Special training is required.

MYTH

Hospice and elderly care are the same thing."

FACT

Terminally ill individuals of all ages, including children, may need hospice care.

MYTH

"Unfortunately it doesn't yet really exist in Hungary." "But if it does, it costs a lot of money." "It exists only through foundations."

FACT

Hospice services have been financed by the National Health Care Insurance Fund (OEP) since 2004. Currently 95 providers are available. Every type of hospice is free for the patient.

MYTH

"Nothing can be done about the taboo surrounding death."

FACT

Through changing of attitudes, public service campaigns and education much can be done to relieve the taboo surrounding death.