



A guided checklist

Questions for hospice caregivers

If you will be acting as a caregiver, these are some of the key questions to ask clinicians or other members of the care team. Not every question will be relevant to every case, but you can print out this checklist and add additional questions specific to your loved one.

For more information, visit ehab.com

Checklist:**My notes:****The end-of-life process**

<input type="radio"/>	How quickly or slowly might the patient's condition deteriorate?	
<input type="radio"/>	What physical changes should be expected over the next six months?	
<input type="radio"/>	What mental changes should be expected over the next six months?	

Symptom management

<input type="radio"/>	What signs indicate that the patient is in a life-threatening situation?	
<input type="radio"/>	What should the caregiver do if the patient is in a life-threatening situation?	
<input type="radio"/>	Are there any circumstances under which the caregiver should call 911?	

Caregiver-administered patient care

<input type="radio"/>	What medical procedures (injections, bandaging, etc.) might I have to perform?	
<input type="radio"/>	What are the specific steps involved in performing these procedures?	
<input type="radio"/>	What potential problems might occur while performing these procedures?	

Equipment and devices

<input type="radio"/>	Will the patient be using any durable medical equipment (e.g., oxygen, CPAP, etc.)?	
<input type="radio"/>	What are the specific steps involved in using this equipment?	
<input type="radio"/>	What potential problems might occur while using this equipment?	

Medication management

<input type="radio"/>	Will the patient be receiving palliative medications to manage pain or other symptoms?	
<input type="radio"/>	Will the caregiver be asked to administer pain medication?	
<input type="radio"/>	Who decides if more medication is warranted, the patient or the caregiver?	

Checklist:**My notes:****Managing mental health**

<input type="radio"/>	Is the patient likely to experience depression and/or anxiety?	
<input type="radio"/>	How can the family caregiver help to manage these conditions?	
<input type="radio"/>	Under what circumstances should the patient see a mental health professional?	

Diet and nutrition

<input type="radio"/>	Must the patient adhere to special dietary guidelines?	
<input type="radio"/>	What specific foods and supplements are prohibited?	
<input type="radio"/>	What specific food and supplements are recommended?	

Patient activity guidance

<input type="radio"/>	What physical activities are prohibited for the patient?	
<input type="radio"/>	What physical activities are recommended for the patient?	
<input type="radio"/>	What special safety precautions should be put in place?	

Having difficult conversations

<input type="radio"/>	Are there conversations you would recommend I have with my loved one about their prognosis and life expectancy?	
<input type="radio"/>	Who on the care team can help guide me in initiating and continuing these conversations with the patient and our loved ones?	

Advance directives and health care proxies

<input type="radio"/>	Are advance directives and/or a health care proxy legally required for hospice patients?	
<input type="radio"/>	In the absence of advance directives or a proxy, who is empowered to make key decisions on behalf of the patient?	
<input type="radio"/>	If a health care proxy is unable or unwilling to make decisions on behalf of the patient, may they appoint someone to do so?	

Checklist:

My notes:

Caregiving guidance		
<input type="radio"/>	What can the caregiver do to enhance the patient’s physical comfort?	
<input type="radio"/>	What can the caregiver do to enhance the patient’s mental state?	
<input type="radio"/>	What can the caregiver do to enhance the patient’s quality of life?	

Additional questions:

Enhabit integrates caregivers into the plan of care

The role of caregiver is not an easy one and not one that most would wish to take on alone. That’s why Enhabit provides significant support to patients and their loved ones as they confront the new and formidable challenges involved. Our goal is to provide compassionate care and to help you do the same, both for your loved one and for yourself.