When your loved one dies at home

An expected death at home on hospice is not a medical emergency.

> Do not call 911 and do not start CPR, unless the person asked for it and the hospice team knows. If someone has already called 911, show the responders the POLST form if there is one, and call the hospice right away.

1. **Take your time.** Sit with the person, hold their hand, pray, or be quiet. There is no rule about how long. Call family who want to come.
2. **Call the hospice.** Say that your loved one has died. The nurse will ask a few questions and give an arrival time.
3. **The nurse comes.** The nurse confirms the death, notifies the doctor, records the time and can help wash and dress the person.
4. **The funeral home is called.** The nurse calls the funeral home, mortuary or cremation provider you chose. You can ask them to wait until family arrives.
5. **Medicines.** The nurse reviews the medicines with you and explains how to dispose of them. Leftover opioids should not stay in the house.
6. **Equipment.** The hospice arranges pickup of the bed, oxygen and other items, usually within a few days, on a day that suits you.
7. **Death certificate.** The doctor certifies the cause of death. The funeral home files the certificate. Order several certified copies.

Afterwards

- The social worker can help with the funeral home, who to notify (Social Security, Medicare, Medi-Cal, pensions) and help for children.
- Grief support for the family continues for 13 months after a death.
- If grief feels like more than you can carry, or you have thoughts of ending your life, call or text 988, at any hour.

FUNERAL HOME _____ **PHONE** _____

PEOPLE TO CALL _____

Read the full guide: betahospice.com/resources/when-someone-dies-at-home