



Hospice
of Southwest Ohio
A Servant Leadership Organization



Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

What is it?

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, is a disease of the nervous system that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, weakening the muscles and impacting physical function.

How can palliative care help?

A person receiving palliative care can continue receiving treatment for ALS.

Palliative care can help patients:

- Prepare for physical changes that may occur
- Cope with mental and emotional issues that may arise
- **Transition from treatment of the disease (palliative care) to control of the disease (hospice care)**

How can hospice care help?

A patient with ALS may be able to receive hospice care if the illness has progressed rapidly in the past 12 months and the patient:

- Is wheelchair bound or bed bound
- Is barely able or unable to speak
- Needs assistance in most daily living activities

At least one of the following must also apply:

Breathing difficulties:

- Shortness of breath or supplemental oxygen required, even when resting

Nutrition is poor:

- Low intake of food
- Dehydration
- Continual weight loss
- No tube feedings

Life-threatening complications:

- Pneumonia
- Multiple bedsores
- Urinary tract infections
- Sepsis (bacteria infects the bloodstream)
- Recurrent fever after antibiotics



Hospice Southwest of Ohio is

here for you

Hospice of Southwest Ohio is made up of a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals and volunteers who work together to focus on pain relief and psychosocial support that increases one's quality of life during their last months.

Hospice care is available wherever a patient is, whether that's at home, in a healthcare center or at our Care Center in Madeira, Ohio. Our services are available in Clermont, Butler, Warren and Hamilton counties in Cincinnati. **Call us 24 hours a day, seven days a week with any questions or concerns at 513.770.0820.**