



**Hospice  
of Southwest Ohio**  
A Servant Leadership Organization

## Malnutrition



### What is it?

Malnutrition, or failure to thrive, occurs when there is a lack of sufficient nutrients in the body. Malnutrition can sometimes be treated but treatment must address any underlying conditions and replace missing nutrients.

### How can palliative care help?

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

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 help?

A patient with malnutrition may be able to receive hospice care if:

- They experience a loss of appetite
- There is unintentional weight loss of more than 10% in the last six months
- Body Mass Index (BMI) is low
- The patient refuses a feeding tube or the above indicators are present despite a feeding tube or IV
- There are multiple and persistent bedsores
- They've experienced numerous infections in the past 6-12 months
- They suffer from several medical conditions (although they may not necessarily be terminal)



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.**