



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

Stroke and Coma



What is it?

A stroke is a sudden interruption in the blood supply of the brain, often caused by an abrupt blockage of the arteries leading to the brain or the bursting of a blood vessel that bleeds into the brain. A coma is a period of prolonged unconsciousness that is brought on by an illness or injury.

How can palliative care help?

A person receiving palliative care can continue receiving treatment for a stroke or coma.

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 who has had a stroke or is in a coma may be able to receive hospice care if they are older than 70 and are:

- In a coma or vegetative state for more than three days
- Severely sluggish or experience muscle twitching beyond three days
- Unable to swallow, which prevents nourishment, and are not a candidate for artificial nutrition/hydration
- Comatose and experiencing the following symptoms on the third day of their coma:
 - Abnormal brain stem response
 - Inability to speak
 - No response to pain



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.**