

## Why Am I Being Discharged?

The most common reason a patient is discharged from care is that his or her condition has improved or there has been no evidence of continuing decline.

### **Do You Mean I Am No Longer Ill?**

We understand that this is confusing and you most likely still have significant health challenges. When you were admitted to hospice, the team agreed that you were eligible for hospice care because your life expectancy would be six months or less if your disease ran the normal course. With the care you have been receiving, your condition has either improved or shown no significant decline, and the team believes you are no longer eligible for hospice at this time. "At this time" is key here. You still have health challenges and it is very likely that you will be eligible to receive hospice care again when your physical health shows signs of decline. It is very hard for the team to determine the exact course of your illness.

### **What Happens Now?**

Your hospice team has been evaluating your condition as part of your ongoing hospice care. The team will work with you, your family and your primary care doctor to determine the best plan of care going forward. Once you are discharged, your care will no longer be covered by the Medicare Hospice Benefit or hospice plan of your medical insurance, and your medical coverage will resume under Medicare Part A or your medical insurance. Your medical equipment needs will be transferred to another medical equipment provider and you will receive a supply of your prescribed medications.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have and will also provide you with guidelines for when it may be time to contact Empath Health again to return you to hospice care.

**Call Empath Health with any questions or when it is time to be reassessed for admission to hospice.**

Call Empath Health with any questions (888) 855-2838: \_\_\_\_\_