

The Volunteer's Role

GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTING PATIENTS

While patients, loved ones and volunteers often build close bonds, it's important to remember that there are guidelines for volunteer assistance to protect all parties. Here are some guidelines to help you ensure that you are providing proper assistance as a hospice volunteer.



VOLUNTEER DUTIES INCLUDE:

- Providing companionship to a patient (talk, read, play games, watch TV, play music, flip through photo albums etc.)
- Sitting with a patient while the caregiver runs errands or just gets out of the house
- Visiting for up to four hours
- Presenting food to patient IF the patient can use fork/spoon/knife themselves
- Providing a steady arm for patient
- Running errands for patient or caregiver



VOLUNTEER DUTIES DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Providing medical care or give medical advice to the patient.
- Bathing or toileting the patient
- Visiting for more than four hours at a time
- Move or lift patients
- Transporting patients
- Applying medications or pick up prescriptions
- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES – should you physically feed a patient



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