

Table 22-2: Sample Explanation of Hospice

*Knowing that you wish to stay home and not return to the hospital, we would like to refer you and your family to a program of care designed specifically for patients and families in your condition, with your exact same desires. This program is designed especially for people who are living with advanced illness, wish to stay home, and may need after-hour, on-call assistance to stay comfortable.*

*Nurses are available 24 hours a day for support and guidance. They are specialists, knowing how to help individuals and families be as comfortable and as strong as possible at home. This service offers a nurse who is an expert in pain and symptom management, and knows how to prevent symptoms from getting out of control. The nurse will help educate you and your family on what to expect with time. Sometimes learning what is natural and expected can be very calming.*

*They also have a social worker who specializes in care of people who have been living with HIV for a long time. They provide support and referrals to community resources as you need and desire. Home health aides are also trained to work with people with weakness and advanced disease. They can assist with bathing, changing of bed linens and other personal care several times a week if you desire. All of the care services are designed to support your comfort and confidence at home. Additional services include spiritual support, volunteer help, and bereavement support.*

*This special program is called hospice. We believe this program is just right for your needs at this time. If your needs change, and you no longer need this special support, you may be discharged. If you receive services, and you decide this is not the type of care you want, you may be discharged at any time.*