

4-10 May 2026 is **HOSPICE WEEK**



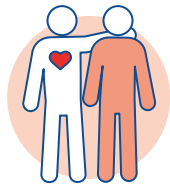
Hospice Week is a time to raise awareness about hospice and palliative care, and the vital role they play in supporting people with serious illness. It highlights the importance of dignity, comfort and quality of life, especially when a cure is no longer possible.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Serious illness doesn't only affect the body, it affects emotional, mental and social wellbeing too. Hospice and palliative care focus on the whole person, not just the illness. **These services:**



Help manage pain and other symptoms



Provide emotional and psychological support



Support families and caregivers during difficult times



Ensure patients are treated with dignity and respect

Early access to this kind of care can greatly improve quality of life, even alongside ongoing treatment.

HOSPICE VS PALLIATIVE CARE – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

While the terms are often used together, they are not the same:

Palliative care

- Can start at any stage of a serious illness
- Can be given alongside curative treatment
- Focuses on relieving symptoms and improving quality of life

Hospice care

- Is for patients nearing the end of life
- Focuses on comfort rather than cure
- Is often provided at home, in a hospice facility or in a care centre
- Includes support for both the patient and their family

Palliative care can begin early in an illness, while **hospice care** is typically for end-of-life support.

WHAT DOES THE SCHEME OFFER?

The Scheme will pay 100% of the lower of the cost or Scheme tariff for hospice care subject to authorisation by Hospital Benefit Management.



Contact your Scheme: ☎ 0860 002 109 | @mbmed@medscheme.co.za
or scan the QR Code to visit the **MBMed Member Portal**