



**Comfort and Dignity
for Patients.
Meaningful Support
for Families.**

Compassionate ventilator withdrawal by VITAS[®] Healthcare for patients with advanced illness.

VITAS[®] Healthcare offers compassionate solutions for patients and families considering the withdrawal of artificial ventilation.

Hospice is a medical specialty that offers multiple levels of care to match patients' symptoms and care goals. VITAS provides compassionate care that honors your patients' preferences and wishes for dignity near the end of life.

In coordination with hospice patients and their families, the VITAS interdisciplinary team—physician, nurse, HHA, social worker, chaplain—and a licensed respiratory therapist support patients who are considering ventilator withdrawal.

VITAS Case Studies

VITAS transitions ventilated patients from an intensive care unit to a more homelike setting to manage symptoms optimally, including through compassionate ventilator withdrawal. The VITAS interdisciplinary team provides spiritual and psychosocial support to patients and their families.

Vent Removal Case Study



Pre-Hospice

20 days prior to hospitalization

79-year-old patient with COPD, heart disease, and sepsis, with previous hospitalization for COPD exacerbation and pneumonia.

Day 1, hospital admission-Sepsis Alert System activated

Admitted to ICU from ED under hospital's Sepsis Alert System. Multiple IV antibiotics, volume resuscitation, IV steroids, wound care

48 hours post-admission

Condition worsened. Mechanical ventilation initiated for acute respiratory failure secondary to bilateral pneumonia.



Goals-of-Care Discussion

A goals-of-care discussion identifies a patient's wishes and values, leading to a care plan that reflects the patient's goals and wishes for dignity near the end of life

7 days post-admission

Ventilator-dependent. GOC discussion addresses trach and PEG tube. Husband reports patient requests DNR. PEG and trach deferred.

Referral to VITAS

VITAS RN meets husband for evaluation to hospice services.



Outcome at VITAS Inpatient Hospice Unit

Day 1: Patient is transitioned to a VITAS inpatient hospice unit, a homelike environment where the patient is surrounded by family and friends.

Day 2: With the assistance of VITAS respiratory therapists/specialists, the ventilator is withdrawn compassionately while optimal symptom management continues, allowing the patient to die peacefully and naturally, surrounded by loved ones.

VITAS Bereavement

Loved ones receive consistent and continuing grief and bereavement support for 13 months following patient's death.

Consult with VITAS about compassionate ventilator withdrawal when aggressive treatments are no longer effective against an advanced illness, or when a ventilator-dependent patient feels the intervention and/or side effects are no longer tolerable or preferred.

We're available 24/7/365 for compassionate hospice care.