



No One Dies Alone (NODA) Frequently Asked Questions

What is No One Dies Alone (NODA)?

NODA is a vigil at the end of life, so that no one dies alone.

The goal is to provide companionship and support for dying individuals, who are completely alone, having no family or community support.

Through the efforts of volunteers, No One Dies Alone (NODA) provides a reassuring presence to dying patients who would otherwise be alone.

Trained volunteers, compassionate companions, will offer patients the most valuable of human gifts: a dignified death.

Who Can Volunteer?

The program is looking for interested, caring members of the community, including current hospital volunteers for other programs, to serve as compassionate companions. Because of the nature of the program, volunteers must be older than 18 years of age and must not have experienced a recent death of a close friend or family member within the past year.

Training and Volunteering

Volunteers will undergo both hospital and program training. No nursing skill is necessary to volunteer, but the program does require a two-hour introductory training session and a one-hour orientation session before qualifying to serve as a NODA companion. In addition, applicants will also undergo criminal history background checks and health checks along with being asked to complete online learning modules during the onboarding process.

This training is to promote the safety of both our volunteers and patients in addition to helping make the vigil experience a positive one for everyone involved. After completing training, companions are asked to provide their hours of availability. It is important to note that the need for companions will not be the same each week and volunteers will be utilized on an as needed basis.

When hospital shift coordinators decide that a patient would benefit from compassionate companions, they contact the NODA volunteer phone coordinator, who notifies the companions who have signed up for that day. The notified companions then begin to come in, one by one, for a series of **three-hour shifts**. Patients are then surrounded by compassion and care until they pass.



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Companions serve as a patient's surrogate family, providing them with dignity, respect and the knowledge that they are a valued member of the community. Volunteers may be called upon by shift coordinators when patients meet the following criteria:

- Patient is on comfort care only
- Has a "do not resuscitate" status
- Is expected to pass away within 48 -72 hours
- Does not have local family or friends
- Does not have family or friends involved and present

[Getting Involved](#)

Below is a list of IU Health Facilities with NODA programs. This list will be updated as other facilities implement the program.

- IU Health Arnett
- IU Health Ball

We hope to have this program implemented in most of our IU Health facilities by December 2021.

NODA is a volunteer-driven program. It cannot exist without the support of people like you. If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more about the NODA program and other opportunities at the various locations of Indiana University Health, please visit us at <https://iuhealth.org/about-our-system/volunteering> for information on the application process. All volunteers will complete the application process for the location of your choice. The application is explained for each location at the above link.