What's the difference between hospice and palliative care?

**Palliative care**
- is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. It relieves suffering while improving quality of life. It is focused on providing patients relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness — whatever the diagnosis.
- strives to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.
- is provided by a team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists who work together with each patient, their families and other health care providers to provide an extra layer of support.
- helps patients and their families in navigating the healthcare system
- Offers guidance with difficult and complex treatment choices
- Provides emotional and spiritual support for patients and their families
- **is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness and can be provided along with curative treatment.**

**Hospice**
- Is specialized care for patients who have been given a terminal diagnosis with a prognosis of six months or less.
- Offers care for the whole person, focusing on pain and symptom management, psychological, social, and spiritual care. Hospice seeks to relieve suffering while focusing on quality of life.
- Is a support to patients and family members throughout the dying process
- Offers 13-month bereavement follow up for primary caregivers and family members