

Information for Healthcare Professionals

Introducing hospice care offers your patients and residents an important choice when dealing with the end of life.

As a hospital discharge planner, home healthcare agency administrator, or residential facility administrator, you are often best acquainted with your patient's needs and when it may be appropriate for you to recommend hospice as an option for care. When that time comes, Hope Hospice is here to support you, the patient and the family.

Hospice care is unique because it focuses on meeting an individual's physical needs, while also supporting their emotional, social, and spiritual needs. In general, patients must meet the following criteria to be eligible for hospice care:

- Adults with a prognosis of six months or less if the disease runs its normal course
- Prognosis is certified by the patient's primary care physician as well as the hospice medical director
- Patient and family desire palliative care as opposed to curative treatment
- Hospice can continue beyond six months as long as the patient continues to meet eligibility criteria

A common misconception about hospice care is that a referral can be premature. Hospice care is most effective over a period of months, yet most hospice patients die within a month of referral based on the reluctance to refer patients earlier or at all. An early referral can provide your residents with the extra attention and focused hospice care that relieves symptoms and manages pain. It also offers your individuals and their families a vital opportunity to deal with their loss and say goodbye.

Benefits of Referring a Patient to Hope Hospice:

- Ease of referral and minimal paperwork
- Providing 24 hour care to help you manage your patients'/residents' hospice and end-of-life care needs
- If the patient/resident resides in your facility they can stay there; the care comes to their bedside
- On-site educational training for your staff regarding hospice and end-of-life care
- Providing your patients with a caring option to manage their end-of-life journey that reflects well on you
- Supporting, reinforcing and respecting the relationship you and the physician have with your patient
- Ongoing pain management and symptom relief for your patients so you can rest assured that they are comfortable.

On Call Newsletter

We publish a free newsletter for healthcare professionals designed to provide you with up to date information about hospice and end-of-life care. Go to our web site to download recent issues or to be placed on our mailing list to receive future issues.



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Training and Education

Our goal is to provide relevant, up-to-date training for healthcare professionals in the community who work with patients at the end of life. We offer introductory and advanced-level education. Our staff can provide on-site presentations. Training topics and duration are tailored to each physician's need. CEU's are available for many seminars. Sample introductory topics include:

- *General Hospice Care*
- *Hospice Care for the Actively Dying Patient*
- *Hospice Care for Patients with Dementia*
- *Proper Body Mechanics and Techniques for Safe Patient Transfers*
- *Pain Management for the Elderly*

To request a training session, fill out a request for information on our web site or call us at (925) 829-8770 or 1 (800) Hospice to speak with the Medical Outreach Department.

Annual Hospice Teleconference

Each spring, Hope Hospice co-sponsors the Hospice Foundation of America's (HFA) yearly teleconference live via satellite. This program educates healthcare professionals and families throughout the nation on issues affecting end-of-life care. Participants hear from a panel of local professionals sharing and exchanging ideas following the teleconference. They can obtain continuing education credits through HFA. Call us at (925) 829-8770 or 1 (800) Hospice for location, date, and time.

Ambassador Speakers Bureau

Our Ambassador Speakers Program offers community presentations upon request. The presentations are inspiring, bring a message of hope, and help people understand the practical ways Hope Hospice helps support patients and their families at the end of life. In addition to the lecture, we often show a short educational video, "Hope Hospice Opens Doors" that features some of our patients, family members, and our staff members who provide an intimate view of how hospice has touched their lives.

Our speakers include our board members, healthcare professionals and volunteers who will tailor their presentation to meet your group's needs, interests and schedule. To request a speaker contact our Marketing Department at (925) 829-8770 or 1 (800) Hospice.