



PATIENT / FAMILY

TEACHING SHEETS

Hospice Care in a Nursing Home

Nursing facility staffs are experts in caring for their residents in Long-Term Care and Hospice staff are experts in end-of-life care.

Why Hospice care in the facility?

Hospice care focuses on all aspects of life: physical, social, emotional, and spiritual. Hospice can improve comfort to the resident, provide emotional support to the family, and work with the nursing staff to maintain the quality of life while in the nursing home. Hospice care can be provided in a nursing home as this is the home of the resident. Hospice enables the resident to live their final days to the fullest extent possible, with purpose, dignity, grace, and support. Hospice operates as an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) and becomes very important to resident, family, and nursing home staff to enhance end of life care with all providing this effort in care for the resident. Members of the hospice team are trained professionals in the care of persons with life limiting illness.

Who are the members of the hospice team?

The hospice team includes;

- registered nurses (RN)
- licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN's)
- doctors
- chaplains
- social workers (SW)
- nursing assistants (NA)
- volunteers

- bereavement counselors
- you and your family.

The hospice team works together with you and your family to assure your goals are met.

What services can hospice provide?

The Medicare/Medicaid Benefit pays for services of the hospice team, medicines, and supplies relating to the life-limiting illness. Medicare does not pay for room and board. Services and benefits include;

- Focus on pain and symptom control
- Reduce necessity of hospitalization and allow the resident to stay in the nursing home
 - Improve family comfort with end-of-life care
 - Assist with communication with the facility staff to resident/family
 - Recognition of changes in signs/symptoms of end-stage terminal illness
 - Supportive care from trained volunteers
 - Follow-up bereavement services
 - On-call hospice staff 24/7 available for consultation

Residents and family members can notify nursing home staff or the hospice team if any changes in the residents' condition are noticed. The nursing home staff or the hospice team are also available to provide supportive and education related to the residents' condition.

Other HPNA Patient / Family Teaching Sheets are available at www.hpna.org.

References

Core Curriculum for the Generalist Hospice and Palliative Nurse. Dubuque, IA:

Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company; 2005.

National Concensus Project for Quality Palliative Care. Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care. Brooklyn, NY. 2004.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) Hospice Care in Nursing Facilities: *An Educational Resource for Effective Partnerships in End-of-Life Care*. Module 2. 2001.

Approved by the HPNA Education Committee November 2008.