

# The Gift of Hospice

Presented By: Miriam Hermanson, LCSW



HOSPICE • MOBILE PRIMARY CARE • PALLIATIVE CARE

Presenters:

▶ Miriam Hermanson, LCSW



# What is Hospice Care?

- ▶ In home healthcare for individuals who have a life limiting condition and no longer wish to seek curative care.
  - ▶ Medicare covers this care at 100 % for individuals who are 65 and older.
  - ▶ Medicare guidelines state that a person on hospice may pass away in 6 months or less time.

# Home Health vs. Hospice

- ▶ Home Health is for individuals who are homebound with a therapy need or open wound.
  - ▶ Homebound status is critical
  - ▶ Home health is time specific
  - ▶ Focus is patient specific
- ▶ Hospice Services are for individuals and their families
  - ▶ Not time specific
  - ▶ No homebound status
  - ▶ Family system is the focus of care

# Qualifying for Hospice

- ▶ ALS
- ▶ Cancer-wide spread/aggressive
- ▶ Alzheimer's/ Dementia
- ▶ General Decline (increased falls, weight loss etc)
- ▶ Liver Disease
- ▶ Neurological Diseases
- ▶ Parkinson's Disease
- ▶ Pulmonary Diseases (Room Air at 88%)
- ▶ Renal Failure
- ▶ Stroke or CVA
- ▶ Heart Disease
- ▶ Protein Calorie Malnutrition

# What Does a Hospice Patient Look Like



# What is Hospice Care?



- ▶ In-home healthcare for individuals with a life limiting condition
- ▶ Coverage
  - ▶ Typically no cost for care
  - ▶ Person should pass away within 6 months.
    - ▶ However this is not a requirement

# What does Hospice Care Include?

- ▶ Care includes:

- ▶ A Medical Doctor who oversees all care
- ▶ Nursing Services - RN and LPN's
- ▶ Social Work and Chaplain Care
- ▶ Home Health Aides for personal care
- ▶ Medical Supplies/ Incontinence supplies
- ▶ All medications related to the terminal diagnosis
- ▶ A 24/7 Emergency call line



# Where is Hospice Provided?

Wherever home is...

- ▶ Apartment
- ▶ Single family home
- ▶ Living with family
- ▶ Assisted Living Facility
- ▶ Skilled Nursing Facility



# What if More Care is Needed?

- ▶ Hospice is available 24/7 but doesn't move in with our families.
- ▶ Hospice team can help to educate family
- ▶ Private duty care can be hired

▶ <https://video.kera.org/video/when-do-you-choose-hospice-care-imifnl/>

# Advanced Care Planning

- ▶ Completion of Advanced Directives
  - ▶ Power of Attorney for Healthcare
- ▶ New POLST Form
- ▶ Funeral arrangements

# Peace at the Time of Passing



- ▶ No 911 or coroner are needed at the time of death
  - ▶ Simply a nursing visit can confirm the passing
- ▶ Family can have as much time as they need before calling the mortuary
- ▶ Hopefully the passing is planned for in advance

# Veteran's Benefits

- ▶ We Honor Veterans Program
- ▶ End of Life Contract
  - ▶ Free Skilled Nursing Facility Stay

# Success Stories - A Good Death

- ▶ 27 yr old pt with ovarian cancer
  - ▶ Gift of no longer needing to fight.
- ▶ Adult son providing 24/7 care for his mother with Alzheimer's Disease
  - ▶ Assisted with family dynamics as well as assisting with medication management
  - ▶ Education with the dying process

# Caregivers and Patients Need Hospice!

- ▶ Please help us spread the word!
- ▶ If a person feels they could benefit from hospice it is completely ok to discuss this with an MD or ask for a hospice evaluation.

# Patient Choice Exists with Hospice, Why Choose Elevation?

- ▶ Truly Elevated Services
- ▶ Belief that the Medicare funds belong to the patient
- ▶ Excellent care staff
- ▶ Evaluations available 24/7
- ▶ Palliative and in home Primary Care Providers are also available outside of hospice



# Never Too Early to Begin the Conversation!

- ▶ Many patients wish they had more time with hospice!
- ▶ Patients and families get to be in charge of this care!

≡DON'T≡  
*wait until*  
IT'S TOO  
»»*late*««

# Questions?





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**THANK YOU**