Hospice in Long Term Care or Assisted Living Facilities

Hospice is a special type of care for people who are facing serious illness and who have a limited life expectancy. Hospice patients can receive services in the environment they choose, whether it is their own home, home of a family member, senior apartments, or a long-term care or assisted living facility.

Often there are questions about the benefits of hospice when the LTC/assisted living care facility is already providing for the patient’s needs. Hospice services can enhance the care of the patient and family and support the staff. Some of the services that hospice can provide include:

- Expert symptom assessment and management – includes nursing visits, medical director consultation, and an interdisciplinary approach to challenging physical, emotional, and spiritual issues.
- Extra home health aide services for bathing, skin care, and hair care. For example, if a resident requests a shower four times a week and standard care at the facility is twice weekly, hospice can provide the additional two showers.
- Social work and spiritual counselors to support patients, families, and the facility staff through grief and loss issues faced at the end of life and for one year after the patient dies.
- 24-hour on-call nursing support to address urgent issues and needs. If the patient’s symptoms are not managed, the hospice nurse will make a visit and work collaboratively with the facility staff to address the issues.
- Emergency medications. The hospice nurse will arrange for emergency medications to be on site in the event the patient has a sudden crisis such as increased pain, shortness of breath, anxiety, fever and nausea or vomiting.
- Volunteers trained to work with dying patients – listening, reading, talking or simply being present.
- Educational in-services to the assisted living/LTC staff on topics such as symptom management, medications used at end of life, advance directives, and grief and loss.

To schedule a HOSPICE INFORMATIONAL VISIT, please call:
608-241-6900 or 1-800-900-8040
www.HomeHealthUnited.org