

What Every Physician Should Know About Hospice Care



Robert Dinsmore, M.D., Medical Director

When Hospice is Right for Your Patient

There may come a time, in the treatment of a patient, when it is appropriate to consider Hospice care.

For many physicians, referring their patient to Hospice can be a difficult decision, especially in the case of a patient you have known and treated for many years. The decision can be made even more difficult because of the many misconceptions about Hospice care.

Answers to questions most commonly asked by physicians can be found on the reverse side.



H O S P I C E

of Orange & Sullivan Counties, Inc.

845-561-6111

www.hospiceoforange.com

Kaplan Family Hospice Residence



Q *Can I continue to treat my patients once they have been referred to Hospice?*

A Yes. Hospice welcomes the continued involvement of a patient's primary-care physician.

Q *Can I continue to receive medical reimbursements for patients I am treating once they begin receiving Hospice care?*

A Yes. Hospice is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurances. Primary physicians continue to bill the primary insurance as normal. Any questions you may have, please call and ask for our finance department.

Q *How do I explain to my patient and their family the reason for referring to Hospice?*

A The best way is to introduce Hospice as part of what constitutes good medical care at the end of life. Although your patient is no longer responding to treatment, the quality of life for them and their family can be improved with the assistance of Hospice care.

Q *When is the appropriate time to refer a patient to Hospice?*

A When you believe your patient is in the last 6 months of life, they become eligible for Hospice care. While it may be difficult to make that referral, many patients and families wish they had received Hospice care earlier. Patients and families benefit most when an early referral is made allowing them time to receive all the services that Hospice provides. When a trusted professional explains Hospice to patients and families in a personal and kind way, it is likely to be well received.

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, Inc. serves most patients in their home, nursing home or hospital. Our Kaplan Family Hospice Residence is a beautiful 11 bed facility located in Newburgh, NY and offers 24hr/7day a week hospice care for those patients and families who need extra care.

Our hope is to clarify these concerns for you so you will be better able to assist your patients in making the most effective use of Hospice care.

In your home or in ours...it's about how you live.



HOSPICE *of Orange and Sullivan Counties, Inc.*
800 Stony Brook Court, Newburgh, NY 12550
T 845-561-6111 F 845-561-2179
www.hospiceoforange.com