

A Helping Hand: Caring for the Terminally Ill Patient

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast

Wednesday, November 5, 2008 • 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

3:00-5:00 p.m. (Eastern) • 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Mountain) • 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Pacific)



Thousands of people are diagnosed with terminal illnesses everyday. This means the disease they have can not be cured and generally these patients only have a couple months to a couple of years to live. Cancer and heart disease are often the number one and two major medical conditions which result in this end of life prognosis.

While treatment options vary, many patients who have a terminal disease seek some type of palliative care. Palliative care focuses on reducing symptoms, relieving suffering and providing comfort. Some findings suggest that starting a palliative care routine early on in a terminal diagnosis can greatly improve the quality of a patient's life.

If you are unable to provide specific care or treatment for a terminally ill patient, as a home health staff member you can still help them in other ways, for instance by listening. Understanding the physical, psychological, social and spiritual care needs of a dying patient can also help them cope with the reality of what lies ahead. Even if you feel uncomfortable or unqualified to say and do some of these things, remember even just a little bit of help can go a long way.

Terminally ill patients now have a variety of places to seek treatment, but many more are now choosing to spend their final days at home. As a home health staff member, many times you're one of the only people to come in contact with a patient on a regular basis, and trying to help improve the quality of a terminally ill patient's life can be a heavy load to carry. What kind of disease management is right for your patient? What are the symptoms to be aware of as the end of life approaches? What is your role to the patient and their family as the finality of a disease sets in? Hopefully this program will provide you with some helpful answers.

Terminally ill patients simply want to spend their final days in a quality of life similar to what they've always been living. Though you can't change the prognosis of someone who has a terminal illness, you can help them truly live the rest of their life to the fullest extent possible.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Distinguish between palliative care & curative care.
2. Define "good death."
3. Know quality end-of-life (EOL) care & hospice care qualifications.
4. Recognize EOL quality indicators & stages of death.
5. Understand the role of a home health staff member at EOL.

FACULTY:

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CONFERENCE DETAILS:

Target Audience: Home health aides, home attendants and other professionals and family workers who administer and care for patients in the home setting.

Registration: www.adph.org/alphtn

Cost: There is no cost to view.

Continuing Education: None approved.

Satellite Technical Information: This program will be a live satellite broadcast on C band (analog).

Webcast Information: This program will be a live webcast. Register at www.adph.org/alphtn To view webcast, you need RealPlayer or Windows Media Player. Test your computer before the day of the program from the "test connection" link at www.adph.org/alphtn

On the day of the program, go to www.adph.org/alphtn & click on the "view webcast" link.

Conference Materials: Posted on our website approximately one week before the program for registered participants.

Questions For Faculty: Fax or email questions and a response will be given during the program.

Email: alphtnquestions@adph.state.al.us • Fax: 334-206-5640.

Conference Details Questions: Call: 334-206-5618 | Email: alphtn@adph.state.al.us

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