



When is it time for a family meeting?

When the patient is suffering from a life limiting illness such as end stage heart disease, end stage lung disease, cancer or dementia, this means the patient's health cannot be restored and their disease continues to progress. It is here the discussion is needed on how their symptoms can be treated to improve the quality of the time they have remaining. This, with guidance from Family Hospice, should be the time for your family to have the care discussions.

Choosing Hospice Care

Many primary physicians have 3 to 5 patients in their practices who are suffering from a life limiting condition and whose symptoms are not responding to optimum therapy. The physician's office receives frequent calls or "the patient ends up going to the ER for treatment on weekends or during the evening hours", according to the editors of Health Resources Publishing LLC.

According to CMS, half of the patients readmitted to the hospital within 30 days of discharge from the hospital are readmitted with similar symptoms and conditions.

During the meeting?

1. Upon your request, Family Hospice will contact the patient and family to schedule a meeting to discuss the patient's current health condition and their goals for care.
2. Family Hospice will discuss advance directives and will help identify who will be responsible for making decisions for the patient's care when the patient cannot.
3. Family Hospice will discuss what qualifies a patient for hospice and the palliative and supportive care that is provided.
4. Family Hospice will discuss the benefits and limitations provided through the special Medicare Hospice Benefit.



After the meeting

1. The patient and family may want to discuss their options more or may want to talk with other health care providers.
2. Family Hospice will inform the physician office staff about the results from the meeting.
3. If the patient and family agree to admission, a comprehensive assessment will be completed, plans of care formulated.
4. A schedule of ongoing visits that best meets the patient and family needs will be put into practice.

Selecting Family Hospice to provide care?

1. If the patient and family selects Family Hospice, we will call to obtain an order from the attending physician to begin care.
2. Within the first few hours of start of care, medication, equipment and supplies are ordered assist in the care of the patient. Within 24 hours of the beginning of care, an RN visit is made to evaluate the patient and family needs and to follow up with items the family may not have thought about during the initial visit. Within 5 days a Licensed Social Worker and Chaplain meet the patient and family to complete a comprehensive assessment and formulate plans of care. A schedule of ongoing visits that best meet the patient and family needs is put into place.
3. If the attending physician desires and approves, The Family Hospice Medical Director, Stephen Raben MD is available to assist in managing pain and symptoms.
4. Each individual patient's care needs and concerns are discussed in a team meeting every two weeks and summarized in writing for the attending physician.

Family Hospice is a community based not-for-profit program providing exceptional care to our patients and their families. Family Hospice of Belleville is a Medicare Certified Hospice Program. Our vision at Family Hospice is to help the patient and their families facing serious illness find **the right care, at the right time and for the right reason.**



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