



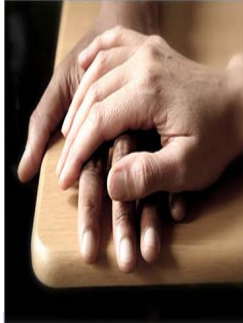
THE BEACON



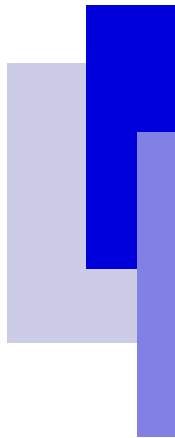
Issue No. 13

A Monthly Newsletter for Physicians and Health Care Professionals from Americare Hospice

Hospice Nurses



“To provide care with excellence to anyone experiencing or sharing in an end of life Journey”



Since the early 1980's, hospice care has grown in awareness and acceptance. As people reach the end of their lives, many issues confront these dying patients and their families, including pain management, grief, spiritual needs, and treatment options. Hospice nurses are trained specifically to treat the entire realm of end-of-life problems and questions to make the transition as comfortable as possible for everyone involved. While the role of hospice nurses is to monitor and administer pain medication they also keep the terminally ill patient comfortable, provide emotional support, as well as provide practical guidance to the patient and family. Hospice nurses work closely with the entire hospice team, including physicians, social workers, therapists, chaplains and bereavement support, aides, and volunteers. Hospice nurses are on call 24 hours a day should patients and families have an immediate concern or change in patients health status that needs addressed. Hospice nurses may provide care for patients wherever the patient calls home. This includes Assisted Living facilities, Long Term Care facilities, hospitals, and, of course, the patient's home. Hospice nurses must become well versed in a variety of arenas in

addition to medical procedures. They often times become advocates for the patient and family by helping to carry out the final wishes of the patient. They usually have access to community and legal resources so they can appropriately direct the family for further assistance. Hospice nurses as well as the entire hospice team must retain a high level of cultural sensitivity when dealing with a variety of family needs, ideas, values, and beliefs. Furthermore, it is important that hospice nurses develop their own emotional support system within the hospice unit, as these nurses will typically lose every patient they care for.

A Day in the Life of a Hospice Nurse...

Hospice nurses perform many traditional duties such as observing, assessing, and recording symptoms, as well as working closely with physicians, administering medications, and providing emotional support. The role of a Hospice nurse is not to cure the patient but rather to make his or her remaining time the best possible. This is done by keeping their pain under control and providing them with comfort and compassion in a dignified manor. Although being a nurse of any kind is very difficult, dealing everyday with someone facing a terminal illness

Get to Know Americare...

requires an exceptional temperament, one that embodies great caring, patience, and resolve. Hospice embraces the philosophy of care that provides physical, spiritual, and emotional support for patients and their families. Due to the complexity of this type of care, hospice nursing duties fall somewhere in between all of these areas of support, with emphasis on medical care. Hospice nurses are a special group of people that we at Americare refer to as “Angels.”

Families share in their own words how Americare Hospice has helped them...

“Lucy was great—she has such a caring way about her. Although, I’m sure she was really busy, Lucy always took the time to answer our questions. Leslie came the day of passing and she just seemed like one of our family! Lucy and Leslie are true credits to your team.”

“If it hadn’t been for the nice nurse with me that morning, I don’t think I could have handled this that well. They were great help.”

“I should have contacted hospice earlier. We didn’t think she would pass so quickly. Joanne gave me her undivided attention and spent a couple of hours with my mother and I. Pansy was great—she was called in the early morning and came immediately. Having her there was a huge comfort to me. I can’t say enough—she was comforting and caring. I just wish I would have called hospice earlier!”



Pictured above is a group of our Hospice Nurse’s
Left to Right: Back Row-Tammy, Leslie, Kim,
Tonya, and Lucy Front Row-Kathy and Peggy



Pictured above is Americare’s Relay for Life Tent
Relay For Life...Follow Up...

Americare participated in the 2009 Relay for Life and is proud to be a part of Johnson County, which raised a total of \$107,000 towards cancer research. Americare won two awards this year: “Most Cancer Related Campsite” and the “Fight Back Champion Award.” There was also a total of 355 people that participated in the Cancer Prevention Study-3. Thanks to everyone in Johnson County that helped make this years Relay for Life a wonderful event.

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