



Hospice in Nursing Homes

Developed by the California Association for Health Facilities
and the
LightBridge Hospice & Palliative Care

There are ever increasing expectations on health care providers to deal with pain management and end of life issues effectively. Nursing homes need to take advantage of available resources to improve these services. Hospice is such a resource. Working with hospice offers an opportunity for collaboration of expert professionals on the statutory and regulatory requirements related to end of life care such as POLST and F309 – pain management. Nursing homes are encouraged to schedule a meeting with local hospice providers to educate each other about their unique role in the health care continuum and explore possibilities for working together to better meet the needs of the residents they serve.

Hospice brings additional expertise

- Experts in pain management and symptom control
- Experts in the “dying process”
- Experts in psychosocial and spiritual support needs of the dying person and their family

Hospice brings additional resources

- Home Health Aide Services to supplement facility services
- Many Hospices provide unique programs such as aroma therapy, massage
- Training for nursing home staff and families
- Extended relationship and follow up with families for one year after a resident’s death
- Offset of costs in end of life supplies, medications, equipment
- For facilities with 24 hr RN staffing, possible utilization of nursing home as hospital alternative

Opportunities for increased collaboration between hospice and nursing homes

- For private pay residents, education for families on potential impact to daily room and board charges.
- New federal Conditions of Participation set forth explicit requirements for improved communication and collaboration between hospices and nursing homes.