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## Celebrate Health Care Decisions Week

### October 25 – 31, 2009

This week is Health Care Decisions Week as designed by [California State Senate Concurrent Resolution 55](#) to encourage Californians to make decisions about their medical care **before** a serious illness or injury occurs. Visit [CCCC's web site](#) to find out more!

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## CCCC News

### Save the Date! CCCC's Annual Conference – April 19

CCCC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Sacramento on April 19, 2010. Watch for more details soon.

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### POLST Train-the Trainer Course in Southern California

*POLST: It Starts with a Conversation*, CCCC's two-day train-the-trainer course using the standardized California POLST curriculum, provides opportunities for attendees to develop skills for facilitating meaningful conversations with patients and their families about POLST and goals of care. Also covered are ideas for implementing POLST within communities, and training other individuals.

Space is limited. Sign up early!

Dates: November 5-6

Location: Huntington Hospital, Pasadena

Cost: \$169

Click [here](#) for a registration form.

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### Judy Citko to speak at the Commonwealth Club

Judy Citko will participate in the panel discussion "[A Good Death: Intersection of Policy and Practice](#)." This panel will discuss the benefits of palliative and hospice care and explore the best policies for caring for those with terminal illnesses.

Date: October 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm

Location: Commonwealth Club

Annual Conference

## RECENT RESEARCH

- Nursing Home Residents and Hospice
- Nurses Have Positive Impact on End-of-Life Care

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- Diane Meier Selected for Policy Fellowship

### Contact Us

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## Resources

### New Guidelines for Incorporating Spirituality in End-of-Life Care

New [guidelines](#) on incorporating spirituality in end-of-life care are available. The guidelines, which appear in *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, are derived from a recent Consensus Conference sponsored by the Archstone Foundation.

Guidelines include recommendations on the role of healthcare providers in the assurance of quality spiritual care to patients receiving palliative care.

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### Palliative Care Hotline Launched in California

The [Institute for Palliative Medicine](#) has launched the Palliative Care Hotline to give communities in California lacking palliative medicine resources the opportunity to receive quality palliative care consultative and educational support. The toll free number for "PAL-MED" is 877-PAL-MED4.

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## News & Notices

### Partners for Children Waiver Launched

California has entered into a [formal agreement](#) with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to pilot the children's hospice and a palliative care waiver program in 13 counties over the next three years. It is anticipated that first five counties – Alameda, Monterey, San Diego, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz – will begin providing services under the program by the end of the year.

The Partners for Children waiver will allow eligible children to receive concurrent curative and palliative care.

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### Register Your Hospital with the National Palliative Care Registry

The [National Palliative Care Registry](#) is the only repository for national data depicting the operational features of hospital palliative care programs. Enter your program into the Registry before December 31, 2009.

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### National Palliative Care Research Center Announces Grant Applications

The [National Palliative Care Research Center](#) is accepting letters of intent

for its pilot and exploratory project support grants and junior faculty career development awards in palliative care. Letters are due November 1, 2009.

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## Education

### Persons with Developmental Disabilities Webinars

The [American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) is sponsoring a series of webinars on aging and end of life. The webinars take place the third Wednesday of every month. The next webinar is November 18, 2009 at 10:00 am and is titled "Aging and End of Life: Crisis or Opportunity?" Registration is required.

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### 2010 California Thoracic Society Annual Conference

Current Controversies in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine: Multidisciplinary Treatment of Lung Cancer & Interstitial Lung Disease.

Dates: January 29 – 30, 2010

Location: Carmel, California

For more information, click [here](#).

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## Recent Research

### Nursing Home Residents and Hospice

A [study](#) from Harvard Medical School found that hospice care in nursing homes provides benefits for the residents. These include higher quality end-of-life care, reduced hospitalizations, and improved pain management. Hospice care in nursing homes was also found to have positive effects on non-hospice residents, indicating indirect benefits on nursing home clinical practices.

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### Nurses Have Positive Impact on End-of-Life Care

A [study](#) in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* shows, that for advanced cancer patients, a nurse-led palliative care intervention along with standard oncology treatment results in improved quality of life and mood.


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## People on the Move

### Diane Meier Selected for Policy Fellowship

Diane Meier, MD, Director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care, was selected as a [2009-2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellow](#). As such, Dr. Meier will participate in the policymaking process in Washington, DC as a



legislative assistant in Congress or staff member to executive agencies.

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*Newsletters are available on the CCCC Website ([www.finalchoices.org](http://www.finalchoices.org)) in pdf format for anyone who is having trouble reading this email version.*