

Hospice Care for Patients with COPD and Other Forms of Lung Disease

The late spring and summer months can be particularly difficult for patients suffering from COPD and other lung diseases. The intense heat and high humidity increase their discomfort and make breathing even more difficult than usual. These patients' primary concern is what to do if they can't breathe and that commonly sends them to the emergency room.

Hospice is designed to provide care during the last six months of life. When a patient is admitted to Coastal Hospice, our clinical team will develop a plan that outlines specific interventions for respiratory distress. This plan will get severe symptoms back under control at home without the taxing effort of an emergency room visit. This plan will give patients and their families a greater sense of control and security.

Patients should be considered for hospice referral when they:

- Have made repeated trips to the emergency room due to infection or episodes of respiratory failure
- Have endured repeated hospitalizations and no longer wish to be hospitalized
- Are short of breath at rest or with minimal exertion
- Do not wish to be intubated

Shortness of breath and anxiety are distressing symptoms of lung disease. These symptoms can be treated using a combination of clinical therapies and medications. And, knowing there is 24 hour on call nursing staff for such situations is very comforting for patients and their loved ones.

There are many more needs patients and families have when facing life-limiting illness and Coastal Hospice does even more than manage the physical symptoms. Only hospice can implement a plan of care that provides:

- Emotional and spiritual support
- Medications, medical supplies and durable medical equipment related to the hospice diagnosis (including oxygen)
- Training so loved ones can assist in caring for the patient
- Grief support for loved ones

Our staff will counsel patients and their families about their goals and ways to manage symptoms to prevent unwanted hospitalizations while keeping them comfortable and dignified in their own home.

With summer approaching this is the perfect time to implement hospice care for eligible patients. Having the hospice conversation will provide options and choices and we encourage you to follow your patients through hospice; preserving that relationship and providing continuity in care. Please contact our Admissions Department at 410-742-7878 to make your referrals or to get more information.

Coastal Hospice and Palliative Care

Since 1980
enhancing life for
the seriously ill
and their families.

Serving
Worcester,
Wicomico,
Somerset and
Dorchester
Counties on
Maryland's
Eastern Shore.

Coastal Hospice and Palliative Care

PO Box 1733
Salisbury, MD 21802
410-742-8732
800-780-7886
Coastalhospice.org



*Coastal Hospice
& Palliative Care*

Hospice Care for Patients with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Forms of Dementia

Dementia can be particularly difficult for patients, family members and caregivers due to the typically long and slow progression of the disease. Dementia is increasing in frequency and encompasses symptoms different than any other end-stage illness due to the memory loss component. Not only are loved ones being lost physically, but mentally and emotionally as well. Caregivers for patients with dementia have needs for support and guidance as well.

Hospice is designed to provide care during the last six months of life. When a patient is admitted to Coastal Hospice, our clinical team will develop a plan that outlines specific interventions for dementia. This plan will manage the wide range of issues associated with dementia including pain, skin care, agitation, difficult behaviors and recurrent infections. This plan will give patients' families, caregivers and healthcare providers a greater sense of control and security.

Patients should be considered for hospice referral when they:

- Are unable to communicate clearly, often with a vocabulary limited to 5 words or less
- Need total assistance with activities of daily living
- Are incontinent of bowel and bladder
- Have difficulty swallowing or refuse to eat
- Can no longer ambulate on their own
- Have had recurrent infections

Dementia isn't readily recognized as a terminal illness. Alzheimer's Disease and other progressive dementias are eventually fatal conditions and are just as eligible for hospice care as end-stage renal disease, cancer or COPD.

There are many needs patients and families have when facing life-limiting illness and Coastal Hospice does more than manage the physical symptoms. Only hospice can implement a plan of care that provides:

- Emotional and spiritual support
- Medications, medical supplies and durable medical equipment related to the hospice diagnosis (including oxygen)
- Training so loved ones can assist in caring for the patient
- Grief support for loved ones

Coastal Hospice staff provide support that is essential to loved ones and caregivers of patients with dementia. Hospice will address the fatigue, isolation, guilt and depression that can impact all those involved.

You can follow your patients through hospice, preserving that relationship and providing continuity in care. Please contact our Admissions Department at 410-742-7878 to make your referrals or to get more information. And if necessary, we will have our staff evaluate for hospice eligibility.

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