

May 13 & 14

Hilton Easton Columbus

2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

Clinical Support at the End of Life

Presented by Buckeye Hospice and Palliative Care
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OBJECTIVES

This presentation highlights the strategic value of hospice partnerships in enhancing outcomes within assisted living facilities (AL's). With an aging population and growing regulatory pressures, these collaborations have become essential for maintaining compliance, improving quality ratings, and meeting the increasing demand for compassionate end-of-life care. We will explore how hospice services can be effectively integrated into AL operations and outline a partnership framework that delivers clinical, operational, and financial benefits. By educating AL staff on the principles of hospice care—with its holistic approach to addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs—we aim to foster a deeper understanding of how coordinated care can elevate the quality of patient outcomes. Additionally, this session will clarify the specific responsibilities of both hospice and AL staff, helping to prevent duplication of services and support more seamless care transitions. Finally, we will discuss how ongoing evaluation of collaborative practices can foster a culture of continuous improvement, aligning teams around shared goals and delivering measurable results.

UNDERSTANDING HOSPICE CARE AND ITS ROLE IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

What is Hospice Care?

- Hospice is a healthcare service line designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families facing a terminal illness.
- Hospice services can be provided wherever the patient calls home, including the assisted living setting
- This service primarily focuses on pain management, comfort care, quality of life and emotional needs, instead of curative measures
- Care is made up of an interdisciplinary team that usually includes doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, aides, social worker and chaplain
- The patient's pain and symptoms are managed by this interdisciplinary team, as well as their emotional and spiritual needs



UNDERSTANDING HOSPICE CARE AND ITS ROLE IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Regulations and Eligibility for Hospice in ALs

- a. Overview of Medicare/Medicaid guidelines.
- b. Criteria for hospice eligibility.
- c. Importance of interdisciplinary teams (physicians, nurses, chaplains, social workers).

UNDERSTANDING HOSPICE CARE AND ITS ROLE IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Hospice Care vs. Palliative Care in ALs

- a. Key differences and how hospice care complements AL services.

HOW HOSPICE ORGANIZATIONS CAN PARTNER WITH ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Collaboration Opportunities

- a. Integrating hospice services into AL workflows.
- b. Establishing communication protocols and shared care plans.
- c. Joint education and training sessions for AL staff.

HOW HOSPICE ORGANIZATIONS CAN PARTNER WITH ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Operational Integration

- a. On-site hospice presence: How hospice staff can work within ALs.
- b. Documentation and reporting: Reducing administrative burden for ALs.

HOW HOSPICE ORGANIZATIONS CAN PARTNER WITH ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Shared Goals

- a. Enhancing quality of life for residents.
- b. Reducing unnecessary hospital readmissions.
- c. Meeting regulatory requirements and improving survey outcomes.

BENEFITS OF HOSPICE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Clinical Benefits

- a. Access to specialized expertise in symptom management and end-of-life care.
- b. Reduced strain on AL staff: Hospice team handle complex care needs.

BENEFITS OF HOSPICE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Operational Benefits

- a. Improved regulatory compliance: Meeting state and federal requirements for end-of-life care.
- b. Enhanced staff training on care best practices.

BENEFITS OF HOSPICE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Patient and Family Satisfaction

- a. Offering holistic, patient-centered care.
- b. Positive feedback from families leads to better reviews and reputation.

BENEFITS OF HOSPICE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Financial Advantages

- a. Medicare reimbursement for hospice services: No cost to ALs.
- b. Avoiding penalties related to readmissions and quality ratings.

BENEFITS OF HOSPICE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Staff Retention and Satisfaction

- a. Decreasing burnout by providing hospice resources and support.
- b. Opportunities for AL staff to learn new skills and grow professionally.

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING THE PARTNERSHIP

Steps to Establish a Partnership

- a. Identifying the right hospice organization: Key qualities to look for.
- b. Drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or service agreement.
- c. Setting up joint leadership meetings to align goals.

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING THE PARTNERSHIP

Maintaining Effective Communication

- a. Regular touchpoints between hospice and AL teams.
- b. Shared documentation tools for seamless care coordination.
- c. Schedule routine care coordination meetings for increased communication

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING THE PARTNERSHIP

Measuring Success

- a. Patient outcome metrics (pain control, satisfaction scores).
- b. AL operational improvements (staff feedback, regulatory audits).

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING THE PARTNERSHIP

Addressing Challenges

- a. Misaligned expectations: Strategies to recalibrate.
- b. Overcoming misconceptions about hospice care.

CONCLUSION

Recap of Key Takeaways

- a. Hospice enhances care quality and operational efficiency in ALs.
- b. A strong partnership benefits residents, families, and staff.

CONCLUSION

Call to Action

- a. Consider initiating or expanding partnership with hospice providers.
- b. Explore ways to integrate hospice services into existing workflows.

Questions?

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE SESSION!

You can find us on



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