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Palliative Care and Hospice

Bruce Ellsweig, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Penn State School of Medicine
Medical Director, Lehigh Valley Hospice
Vice Chairman, Family Medicine for Community Practices
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Allentown, Pennsylvania

UP TO .5 AMA PRA CATEGORY 1 CREDIT™

This activity is designed for hospice physicians, internists, hospitalists, primary care physicians, surgeons, psychiatrists, and other interested healthcare professionals.

(30 minutes)

"A medicine that embodies an acceptance of death would represent a great change in the common conception, and might set the stage for viewing the care of dying people not as an afterthought when all else has failed, but as one of the ends of medicine. The goal of a peaceful death should be as much a part of the purpose of medicine, as the promotion of good health." This quote from the medical ethicist, Daniel Callahan, serves as the foundation for this review of contemporary palliative care and hospice issues by Dr. Bruce Ellsweig. In this program, Dr. Ellsweig compares palliative and end-of-life care with the curative model of medicine. Recommendations for identifying patients who may be candidates for palliative care and/or hospice include eligibility criteria for the Medicare Hospice Benefit. A multidisciplinary approach to management with early and sustained communications between the patient, caregivers, family, and friends is critical to optimize end-of-life care and is stressed throughout the program.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After taking part in this CME activity, participants should be better able to:

- Explain the difference between curative and palliative care
- Describe the role of the hospice physician
- Discuss the NHPCO guidelines for determining prognosis and eligibility for the Medicare Hospice Benefit

CME CREDIT DESIGNATIONS

ACCME The Network for Continuing Medical Education (NCME) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA NCME designates this educational activity for a maximum of .5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

AAFP Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians. Determination of credit is pending.

AOA This activity is eligible for up to .5 hour of credit in Category 2-A of the American Osteopathic Association.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

- American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Web site. Available at www.aahpm.org
- Casarett D, Crowley R, Stevenson C, et al. Making difficult decisions about hospice enrollment: what do patients and families want to know? *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2005;53(2):249-254.
- Enck RE. Hospice-palliative medicine: a look back and into the future. *Am J Hosp Palliat Care*. 2009; 26(6):429-431.
- Finestone AJ, Inderwies G. Death and dying in the US: the barriers to the benefits of palliative and hospice care. *Clin Interv Aging*. 2008;3(3):595-599.
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Web site. Available at www.nhpc.org
- Rodin G, Zimmermann C, Mayer C, et al. Clinician-patient communication: evidence-based recommendations to guide practice in cancer. *Curr Oncol*. 2009;16(6):42-49.
- Teno JM, Connor SR. Referring a patient and family to high-quality palliative care at the close of life: "We met a new personality...with this level of compassion and empathy." *JAMA*. 2009;301(6):651-659.