Establishing a Home Care Based Palliative Care Program

Presenters:
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10:00 a.m. – noon

Session Objectives

• Describe steps to establishing a home care based palliative care program
• Describe opportunities and barriers of a home care based palliative care program
• Explore funding options for home care based palliative care program
1. Determine the need in your community / health care system
   - Frequent ED visits
   - 3 or more hospitalizations in past year for same diagnosis
   - Lack of support for POLST, future planning

2. Name program
3. Create policies
4. Create resource materials
5. Educate internal staff
6. Educate Health Care System

- All Providers
- Clinic Staff
- Social Workers/Discharge Planners
- Inpatient Palliative Program

7. Educate Community

- Churches
- Senior Centers
- Assisted Living
- Health Fairs

8. Re-Educate
Team Roles

RN

- Initial Assessment
- Case Management
SW

- Initial Assessment
- End of Life Planning
- Finances
- Community Resources
- Reimbursement Dependent Upon Pay Source

Chaplain/Volunteers/Ancillary Therapies

- Minimal to no reimbursement
- Decide what your program is willing/able to offer
Bereavement

Team meeting

- Similar to Hospice IDT

Opportunities of a Palliative Program
Opportunities of a Palliative Program

- Option for patients not ready for hospice care
- Option for patients who do not meet hospice criteria
- More services available than home care
- Smooth transition to hospice care

Barriers to Providing a Palliative Program
Barriers to Providing a Palliative Program

• Meet Home Care regulations
  – OASIS
  – homebound status
  – skilled need
• No standing orders

Barriers to Providing a Palliative Program

• Decreased staff productivity
  – longer visits
  – increased case management time
• Difficulty finding and training clinical staff
Barriers to Providing a Palliative Program

- Understanding by providers and community of services offered
- Staff trained, skilled, and knowledgeable in providing both hospice and home care
- Minimal reimbursement

Funding
Funding

• Medicare
  – Home care guidelines
• Medical Assistance
  – No Social Work coverage
• Private Insurance
  – UCare
  – BCBS
• Fundraising

The Rural Palliative Care Networking Group

This group meets quarterly to network and learn from those interested in providing palliative care services in rural areas. People from all disciplines and settings are welcome and encouraged to participate. The Rural Palliative Care Networking Group is coordinated by Stratis Health and supported with funding from UCare. There is no fee to participate.

For questions about the group contact:
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