Introduction to Hospice
Objectives

The learner will be able to:

• Understand general hospice services
• Discuss ways that hospice services can be accessed
• Discuss Medicare regulations for hospice services and what services are covered
Hospice VS Palliative Care

• **Palliative care** is the care of patients with active, progressive, far-advanced disease, for whom the focus of care is the relief and prevention of suffering and the quality of life.

• **Hospice care** is palliative care for patients that are at the end of life.
Hospice Interdisciplinary Group (IDG)

- Spiritual Counseling
- Nursing
- Aide/Homemaker
- Therapy Services
- Bereavement Counseling
- Medical Social Services
- Medical Director
- Dietary Counseling

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## How is Hospice Different from Homecare?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>HOSPICE</strong></th>
<th><strong>HOME CARE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Palliation</td>
<td>Cure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggressive treatment of terminal diagnosis and subsequent testing &amp; hospitalizations ceased</td>
<td>Aggressive treatment may be pursued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Care</td>
<td>Patient Care</td>
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<td>Spiritual, Emotional, Physical Care</td>
<td>Physical Care</td>
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<td>Patient/Family Choice</td>
<td>Physician Choice</td>
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<td>Levels of Care:</td>
<td>Level of care:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Routine Home Care</td>
<td>• Home visits</td>
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<td>• Respite Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>• General In-patient Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Continuous Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>No homebound requirement</td>
<td>Homebound required</td>
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Hospice Terminology

• Hospice Benefit
  – Medicare payment for hospice services

• Benefit Period
  – Similar to homecare episode
  – Numbers periods (i.e. “first benefit period”)
    • Period 1 = 90 days
    • Period 2 = 90 days
    • Period 3 and ≥ = 60 days (unlimited number of 60 day periods)

• Terminal Diagnosis
  – Physician certified terminal disease with a prognosis of six months or less if the illness runs its normal course
Hospice Terminology (cont.)

• Bereavement
  – Care provided to the family or caregivers for 1 year following the death of the patient
  – Care is coordinated by a Bereavement Coordinator

• Revocation
  – Patient or POA determines that they no longer wish to receive hospice care; they “revoke” hospice and go back to regular Medicare coverage
What is the Medicare Hospice Benefit?

1. The individual is eligible for Part A;
2. The individual is certified as having a terminal disease with a prognosis of six months or less if the illness runs its normal course;
3. The individual receives care from a Medicare-approved hospice program; and
4. The individual signs a statement indicating that he or she elects the hospice benefit and waives all rights to Medicare payments for services for the terminal illness and related conditions. Medicare will continue to pay for covered benefits that are not related to the terminal illness.
Hospice Payment Coverage

• **All supplies included on the Plan of Care**
  – Including personal comfort items such as adult diapers, chux, etc.
  – Ordered from a **contracted** supplier

• **All specific equipment related to terminal diagnosis included on the Plan of Care**
  – Including hospital bed, bed-side commode, wheelchair, etc.
  – Ordered from a **contracted** DME company

• **Medications which are used primarily for the relief of pain and symptom control related to the individual’s terminal illness**
Levels of Care in Hospice

- Routine Homecare
- Respite Care
- General In-patient Care
- Continuous Care
Level of Care: Routine Homecare

- Routine visits in the patient’s residence (including SNFs and ALFs)
Level of Care: Respite Care

- Short-term inpatient care
- To relieve family members or other persons caring for the patient
- Reimbursed for up to 5 consecutive days
Level of Care: General In-patient

• Provided in a participating hospital, hospice inpatient unit or SNF

• For pain control or chronic symptom management which cannot feasibly be provided in other settings
Level of Care: Continuous Care

• Only allowed during a period of crisis
  – Care needed to achieve palliation or management of acute medical symptoms
• Minimum of 8 hours in a 24 hour period
• Primarily nursing, but may include aide/homemaker hours
Celtic Hospice Services

• Provides relief and comfort to individuals through symptom management and pain control
• Offers an interdisciplinary team approach to care for those individuals with progressive, chronic or debilitating illnesses, and those facing end of life situations
Celtic Hospice Services

- Designed for patients who require comfort measures to enhance their quality of life and is directed at treating the person rather than the disease
Any questions, please contact any Celtic Healthcare Hospice staff.

Thank you!!