



Hospice News.

Community-based Care Transition Program

Section 3026 of the Affordable Care Act

Care transitions occur when a patient moves from one health care setting or health care provider to another. Approximately 2.6 million, or roughly one in five Medicare patients that are discharged from a hospital are readmitted within 30 days. The cost to Medicare is \$2.6 billion every year.

The Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) tests models for improving care transitions from the hospital to other settings and reducing readmissions for high-risk Medicare beneficiaries.

Multiple factors along the care continuum impact readmissions, so the first step in reducing them is to identify the key drivers in hospitals, as well as the downstream providers. The CCTP seeks to correct these deficiencies by encouraging a community to come together and

work together to improve quality and patient experience, while decreasing cost. The CCTP's goal is to reduce hospital readmission by 40 percent by implementing the appropriate interventions.

Goals of CCTP

- Improve transitions for beneficiaries
- Reduce readmissions
- Document measureable savings



“Because it’s summer and memories are just waiting to happen. Every summer has a story.”

– Unknown

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF HOSPICE

The most common question asked of hospice care providers is, "how are you able to do *that*?"

Hospice nurses, social workers, chaplains, home health aides, volunteers and bereavement counselors do not consider themselves heroes, saints, angels, or extraordinary. The service they provide dying patients and their loved ones is humbling. It is an honor to be invited to provide comfort and education to individuals at such an intimate and vulnerable time. So, how do they do *that*?

- ◆ By knowing that hospice care will actually empower the patient and family to have some sense of control, when everything around them seems out of their control.
- ◆ By allowing patients with a life-limiting illness to set goals and honoring their wishes.
- ◆ By explaining the dying process to patients and families, hospice care providers alleviate fears and reduce anxiety.
- ◆ By showing a person that they have the right to die with dignity, the way they choose.

The decision for a family to call in hospice care can be incredibly difficult. A lot of people still view hospice as giving up. However, once they make the call, most patients and their families soon understand the value of having a team of dedicated professionals, who work together to provide not only physical but also emotional and spiritual support to the entire unit of care – patient and their loved ones. Rather than continuing with difficult or painful treatments, patients have stopped trying for a cure. Instead, with the help of hospice care, they'll focus on comfort and on living whatever time they have left to the fullest.

Most people prefer to die at home, or in familiar surroundings. It is important that the hospice care providers have knowledge of the family's ethnic and cultural way of life. It is not the intent of hospice care to change beliefs, but to meet patients where they are and help them navigate their own end-of-life journey. Many patients value their independence – no matter how frail they become, and the hospice care providers must continue to negotiate and honor each patient's goals.

There is truly no greater honor than caring for a person that has come to terms with life and is preparing for the next chapter. Hospice care providers know that the patient and loved ones are better off than they would be without the hospice care. Finally, a hospice team is just that – a team. Each member is there to support the other members. That is how they do *that*.

SAVE THE DATE

The Future of Healthcare: Healing in the Community Saturday - November 16, 2013 - DoubleTree Hilton Continuing Education Conference

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Carl A. Hammerschlag

An internationally recognized author, physician, speaker and healer. A Yale-trained psychiatrist; he has spent more than twenty years working with native Americans. He is an expert on how to survive in rapidly changing cultures. He holds the highest honor given in the speaking profession, the CPAE Speakers Hall of Fame Award.

Dr. Hammerschlag will present information to our community's providers on delivering quality healthcare, within the confines of the 2013 transformation of the healthcare system.

Call (520)205-7575 for more information

Breakout Sessions with local speakers include:

- ◆ Transitions of Care
- ◆ Collaboration Across the Care Continuum
- ◆ Reducing Hospital Readmissions
- ◆ Community Based Care
- ◆ Chronic Disease Management
- ◆ Principles of Palliative Care
- ◆ Engaging Patients in Their Healthcare
- ◆ Talking With Patients About Hospice



Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The phrase dog days refers to the sultry days of summer. In the Northern Hemisphere, the dog days of summer are most commonly experienced in the months of July and August, which typically record the warmest summer temperatures.





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HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

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The Gift that "Gives Back"

Gifts are used to advance the mission of Carondelet Health Network, to help purchase equipment, enhance facilities, expand services, fund staff education and to reach out to meet the health care needs of our communities throughout Southern Arizona.

You can also give by visiting the Carondelet Foundation Website at:
www.carondelet.org/foundation

Yes, I would like to make a gift to Carondelet Foundation to support the mission of Carondelet Hospice and Palliative Care.

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