

COMMUNITY MOMENT: HOSPICE SERVICES FOR CANCER PATIENTS



Community Hospice & Palliative Care provides medical, spiritual and emotional care to patients and their caregivers when cancer treatments are no longer beneficial or desired. Community Hospice & Palliative Care and the patient work collaboratively to develop individual goals of care based on the patient's wishes. The goal of hospice care is never to hasten death. The hospice care team provides pain and symptom management. A patient can elect to discontinue hospice services at any time if goals of care change.

CORE INDICATORS FOR A REFERRAL TO HOSPICE WITH CANCER MAY INCLUDE:

- Progression/ worsening of the primary disease of cancer despite treatment
- Other illnesses contributing to a decline
- Decline in nutritional status
- Decline in ability to perform ADLs
- Palliative Performance/ Karnofsky score \leq 50%

CANCER SYMPTOMS AT END-OF-LIFE:

- Pain
- Breathing difficulties
- Nausea
- Anxiety
- Agitation: an unpleasant state of extreme arousal
- Anorexia: lack of appetite
- Cachexia: severe weight loss
- Constipation
- Bowel Obstruction
- Stomatitis: uncomfortable inflammation or irritation of the mouth
- Xerostomia: dry mouth

"Often times patients aren't aware of the additional services they are able to receive with hospice and wish they would've elected hospice care sooner," said Dr. Ilicia Shugarman, medical oncologist with Cancer Specialists of North Florida.

Dr. Shugarman is on the Physician Advisory Board of Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

FOR MORE INFORMATION call **866.253.6681** or visit **CommunityHospice.com**