

Hospice & The Nursing Home

Notes:

- Hospice care is now available in hospitals and long-term care settings such as nursing homes.
- People move into nursing homes because they cannot take care of their physical needs.
- Hospice patients may have been living in the nursing home prior to their admission into hospice.
- In addition to the physical needs that lead to nursing home care, there are emotional, spiritual and social needs that develop with their entry into a nursing facility.

- Life in a nursing home adds an additional dimension in trying to help the hospice patient find peace during their last chapter of life.
- Once a nursing home resident enters hospice care, the hospice team designs the plan of care and works with the nursing home staff to implement the care.
- Pick up an activity calendar.
- Pay attention to the staff.
- Hospice provides the same care in the nursing home as in the home setting.
- You are there as a friend, a supporter, a companion, a part of their network or community.
- Do not give medications. Do not attempt to lift or move the patient.
- Always KNOCK, even if the door is ajar.
- Ask, “would you like me to waken you if I come to see you and you’re dozing in your chair?”
- Be sensitive to the roommate.
- Help the family feel good about their decision to let professionals provide the day-to-day care their family member needs.

Quiz 10. Nursing Home

Quiz 10

- T F 1. Life in a nursing home requires many adjustments.
- T F 2. Hospice patients never live in nursing homes.
- T F 3. Adjustment to life in a nursing home is usually easier in homes where residents maintain some control over their daily life, such as by having as many choices as possible.
- T F 4. A terminal diagnosis is usually difficult no matter where someone lives.
- T F 5. It's important for the volunteer to understand the patient's adjustment to nursing home life. Are they new to the home? Are they angry or sad about their current living situation? Have they adjusted to new schedules and institutional life?
- T F 6. If you are visiting a hospice patient in a nursing home, do not concern yourself with their activity or meal schedule.
- T F 7. Ignore nursing home staff.
- T F 8. Hospice provides the same care no matter where the patient lives.
- T F 9. Your role as a volunteer is to support and help the staff by administering medications.
- T F 10. Always knock before entering a patient's room, whether in a home, nursing home or other institutional setting.

I have read or viewed this segment on-line or DVD and understand the materials.

Volunteer Signature _____ Date _____

Hospice Staff Signature _____ Date _____

Reflections: Use extra paper if needed

1. Have you visited friends or relatives in nursing homes?

2. Few people WANT to live in a nursing home. What do you understand the benefits to be for persons who cannot care for themselves?

3. Why do you think some people might adjust and flourish in a nursing home?

4. Why do you think some family members might feel guilty when placing a loved one in a nursing home?

5. Why is it important to knock before entering a patient's room?

6. Why is it important for the volunteer to understand the nursing home schedule?

Volunteer Signature _____ Date _____