End-of-Life Training Module
Define, Trajectory, and Symptoms

David Wensel DO, FAAHPM

NATIONAL PACE ASSOCIATION
Advancing Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly
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Module

- Definition of End-of-Life
- Difference between hospice and palliative care
- Define common symptoms at End-of-Life
Module

- Medicare Hospice Benefit
- Core Hospice Services must be provided
Prognostication in PACE
Disease Trajectories can help
Illness/Dying Trajectories Lingering,
Expected Death

Lunney et al., 2003
Module

• Symptoms create suffering and distress

• Psychosocial intervention is key to complement pharmacologic strategies

• Need for interdisciplinary care
End-of-Life Symptoms

- **Respiratory**
  - Dyspnea, cough
- **GI**
  - Anorexia, constipation, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting
End-Of-Life Symptoms

- **General/Systemic**
  - Fatigue/weakness
- **Psychological**
  - Depression, anxiety, delirium/agitation/confusion
End-Of-Life Symptoms

• Identification of symptoms
• Search for treatable causes
• Pursue Treatments that help suffering
Pain

- “An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage”
- What the person reports it is.
Pain

• Inadequate pain relief hastens death
• Pain relief is essential at end of life
Module

- Not all PACE programs are affiliated with a hospice
- Where do our PACE participants die?
- This question can help your team determine need for hospice care
Module

- PACE providing end-of-life care seems to be a better model.
- Hospice and PACE have many things in common (Interdisciplinary).
Module

• Use the pathways of care to help determine when to contact hospice
• When a patient transitions to a comfort pathway would be a prefect time to consider hospice
• PACE is not limited to a prognosis of six months or less.
• We can provide hospice care long before a patient has six months or less to live.
• PACE team members need training in how to do that.
Module

- Hospice can provide support to PACE when patients die.
- Hospice bereavement department and chaplains can provide PACE team with grief support as well.
Bibliography

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Contact Information

- Dr. David Wensel DO, FAAHMP
- Medical Director Midland Care PACE
- Topeka, Lawrence, and Kansas City, KS
- Provide PACE, Hospice, Palliative Medicine, and Home Health Services
- dwensel@midlandcc.org
- 785-289-3539