

How the PA Impacts Palliative Care

- *First Point of Contact
- *Chart Review/ Daily MDR's
- *Add to Physician Communication
- *Impact to Cost of Care

Howard Stein D. O. M.H.A.


- ▶ Associate Director Medical Affairs & Physician Advisor Centrastate Healthcare System, Freehold NJ
 - ▶ Board Certified Family Medicine
 - ▶ Board Certified American Board Quality Assurance & Utilization Review Physicians
 - ▶ Executive Board American College of Physician Advisors
 - ▶ hstein@centrastate.com
- 

I'm From Jersey; What Exit?

- ▶ NJ “Dead” Last in End of Life Care




First Point of Contact

- ▶ Via MDR or Chart Review or Case Manager Referral, can identify patients who will benefit from palliative care
 - ▶ Identify care goals
 - ▶ Identify Advance Directive or need to initiate one
 - ▶ DNR or Allow Natural Death Order
 - ▶ Consider early family meeting
- 

Case

- ▶ 89 year old patient from dementia unit assisted living. Several recent admits for renal failure, now considering dialysis


Daily Chart Review/Daily MDR's

- ▶ Patient with lack of progress/ declining status
 - ▶ Consult palliative care team
 - ▶ Identify care goals, speak with physicians, address end of life wishes
 - ▶ Family meeting
- 


Case

- ▶ 82 year old with CHF– recurrent admissions, history of cabg and re–stenosis on medical therapy. Becoming less responsive to dobutamine and milranone. Ejection fraction 24%.

Physician Communication

- ▶ Talk to docs as they round
 - ▶ Educate docs—many do not know what palliative care is
 - ▶ **CHANGE PHYSICIAN BEHAVIOR**
 - ▶ Address DNR, living wills
- 

Cost of Care Impact

- ▶ Dartmouth Atlas Study confirms High Costs at end of life
 - ▶ Cost of futile care
 - ▶ Far greater quality of life and reduced cost utilizing palliative care
 - ▶ Reduces length of stay; reduces readmissions
 - ▶ PA can impact care and cost by utilizing palliative care
- 

Cure Some, Comfort All

- ▶ The PA can help make palliative care an important part of an organization
 - ▶ Palliative Care Committee
 - ▶ Palliative Care Nurse/ Physician
 - ▶ Encourage nurses to refer patients to the palliative care nurse
- 