**12/5 ElderCare Connections Notes from Understanding Hospice with Lumina Hospice**

**The Hospice difference…**

* Emphasis is on **quality** of life (not necessarily pro-longing life)
* To give support (to patient and their family)
* Focus on comfort and quality of life
* Holistic approach (emotional, social, spiritual, etc)
  + Some reports state that patients can live longer (than expected) and are more satisfied once they go into hospice care.

**What Hospice Provides:**

* Covers the costs of comfort care for terminal illness
* Visits by professional staff and volunteers
* Medications related to the terminal condition
* Supplies and equipment (wheel chairs hospital beds, etc.)
* Core Services
  + Physician services
  + Nursing services (1-2 times a week or daily, depending on patient/family need)
  + Medical Social Services
  + Counseling Services
    - Bereavement
    - Spiritual
    - Dietary

**What they do not provide:**

* Caregivers
* Room and board
* Treatment to cure terminal illness
* Primary physicians
* Services/medicines or supplies not related to terminal illness

**A patient:**

* Is treated with respect and dignity
* Can decline a specific service
* Can with draw from hospice at any time

**Hospice is about Education:**

* Open discussions about impending death
* Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)
* Role of food and drink at end of life
* Final arrangements planning

**To Qualify for Hospice:**

* 6 months or less life-expectancy
  + Verified by 2 doctors
* Medicare standards
* It is not scientific
  + If they live longer than expected they aren’t kicked out, as long as they are still declining
* If patient is under the Medicare age, private insurance usually covers it at same rate (100%) as Medicare.

**Who decides when Hospice needs to be called:**

* Physician (most likely)
* Family members
* Staff in the care facility that the patient is in

**Lumina Hospice & Palliative Care:**

* Palliative Care (1 year to death)
* Support Groups
* Transitions (for people who are not ready/not appropriate for hospice care)
* For more information visit <https://www.luminahospice.org/> or call them at 541-757-9616