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CERTIFICATION IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PATIENTS

BEVERLY HILLS--Hospice of Citrus County and Hospice of the Nature Coast nursing staff members Bev Dowling, CHLPN and Karen Getz, CHPNA were recently certified by the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN®).

Since its inception in 1993, the Board has been responsive to the certification concerns and interest of nurses and nursing assistants in the changing environment of hospice and palliative care.

Achievement of this certification is based on demonstration of compliance with standards of care related to end of life such as pain and symptom management and knowledge of major body system changes.

Issues with caring for the families along with professional issues are also components of the exam. While licensure assures minimal competency to practice in a field, certification indicates mastery of a defined body of knowledge.

Hospice of Citrus County and Hospice of the Nature Coast are accredited by the Joint Commission and continually focus on quality. Dowling is proud of her accomplishment and stated, "Employees are encouraged to improve their skills and provide the best quality care to patients and families."