



Fall 2011

386.755.7714

Toll Free

866.642.0962



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In this issue...

How Hospice Care Can Help Patients Affected by Readmissions Reduction

We've Moved!



How Hospice Care Can Help Patients Affected By Medicare's New Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program

BACKGROUND

Intent on reducing the rate of what are considered preventable hospital readmissions for three chronic health conditions, Medicare is rolling out its Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program.

Covering congestive heart failure, pneumonia and acute myocardial infarction, this program will penalize certain hospitals which exceed their Medicare-calculated expected readmission rates. The penalty will take the form of reduced Medicare payments to high-readmission-rate hospitals for all of their Medicare discharges by a factor which increases over several years. It is expected that the list of chronic conditions included in this program will be expanded in the future.

While the penalty phase of this program begins in fiscal year 2013 (which starts October 1, 2012), the previous year's readmission data will be evaluated by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, meaning that October 1, 2011, is the effective start of data collection.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR PATIENTS

Since readmissions for patients with any of the three chronic conditions included in this program may result in financial penalties for hospitals, patients can expect to receive a higher degree of pre-discharge education, planning and preparation as well as post-discharge transitional care and home health care.

While some patients may be able to benefit from such measures, achieving stability and avoiding repeated trips to the emergency room, others may need more direct assistance in order to manage their symptoms and pain. That's where hospice care can make the difference.

Patients with any of the three chronic health conditions under scrutiny who are hospice appropriate can benefit from the palliative care expertise provided by hospice programs.

This hospice expertise can contribute to controlling symptoms and managing pain in patients who are not likely to be readmitted to a hospital for repeated stabilization of a chronic condition. As a result, readmission rates can be reduced, hospitals can be spared both the financial downside of readmitting such patients and the negative impact of turning them away, and those patients can be relieved of the unnecessary discomfort and concern which might lead them to go to the hospital in the first place.



We've Moved!

Proud To Continue Serving You
From Our New Location

857 S.W. Main Blvd., Suite 125
Lake City, FL 32025

386.755.7714
Fax: 386.755.7726

... And Now With A Wings Community Education Center



Located next to our offices in High Springs, Homosassa, Palatka and now Lake City, the Wings Community Education Centers offer our neighbors numerous opportunities for healing, coping, learning and discovery through a variety of support groups, educational programs, and the exchange of information and ideas. There is no charge for any Wings Community Education program.

SUWANNEE TEAM
857 S.W. Main Blvd.
Suite 125
Lake City, FL 32025
386.755.7714
*Serving Columbia, Hamilton,
Lafayette and Suwannee*

ALACHUA TEAM
150 N. Main St.
High Springs, FL 32643
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*Serving
Alachua, Bradford, Dixie,
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Serving Levy

ADMINISTRATION
P.O. Box 641270
Beverly Hills, FL 34464
352.527.2020
866.642.0962

with Anthony Palumbo

Listen Daily at 7:15 a.m.
On THE SKY 97.3 FM

Upcoming Events From Lake City's Wings Community Education Center

**For More Information
or to Register for
Any of These Events . . .**

Contact The Wings Community
Education Center
at Hospice of the Nature Coast
in Lake City:
386.755.7714
or 866.642.0962
(toll free)

NOVEMBER 2011

Beyond Kübler-Ross: New Perspectives on Death, Dying and Grief

When: Thursday,
November 10
Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Wings Community
Education Center
Lake City Plaza
Lake City, Florida

**Of Special Interest To
Professionals Who Counsel
Those Dying or Grieving:**

- Psychologists
- Counselors
- Social Workers
- Clergy
- Funeral Directors
- Educators
- Nurses, Doctors, Health Care Workers
- Teachers & School-Based Personnel
- Spiritual Care Volunteers

Important Information:

- CEUs offered through Hospice Foundation of America
- Lunch provided prior to the event
- Seating limited
- No cost

DECEMBER 2011

Renewal: A Service of Hope and Healing

When: Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Baya Pharmacy East
Conference Room
780 S.E. Baya Drive, Lake City, Florida

**An Interactive, Non-Denominational Service
of Remembrance and Hope**

Workshop: Coping With the Holidays

When: Tuesday, December 13, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Where: Suwannee Health Care Center
1620 S.E. Helvenston St., Live Oak, Fla.

**Practical Tips To Help Those Who Have Experienced
A Loss Achieve Comfort & Peace During The Holidays**

You Are Invited To Join A
SUPPORT GROUP

**For Parents Who
Have Lost A Child**

When you are grieving the loss of a child, talking to others who are going through the same thing can be especially valuable and can help the healing begin.

A Support Group provides a safe place for you to . . .

- share your feelings and experiences with others in similar circumstances;
- reduce loneliness and isolation;
- receive practical and emotional support; and
- exchange information about resources and coping.

Available to anyone who would like to participate who has lost a child at any age.

WHEN: 2nd & 4th Monday of Every Month
From 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Evergreen Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
2509 224th Street
Lake City, FL 32024

A program of Hospice of Citrus County & Hospice of the Nature Coast
Founded 1985

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Jerry Tyre, Grief Services Manager, at 386.755.7714 (866.642.0962 toll free).

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