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Meet Our
Medical Team



A Vast Majority Want To Be Served At Home

CBS News reports that in 2009 Medicare paid \$50 billion just for doctor and hospital bills during the last two months of patients' lives.

Dr. Ira Byock leads a team that treats and counsels patients with advanced illnesses. Dr. Byock told 60 Minutes correspondent Steve Kroft, "Something like 18 to 20 percent of Americans spend their last days in an ICU. It's extremely expensive. It's uncomfortable. Yet this has become almost the medical last rites for people as they die."

Dr. Byock says modern medicine has become so good at keeping the terminally ill alive by treating the complications of underlying disease that the inevitable process of dying has become much harder and is often prolonged unnecessarily.

"Families cannot imagine there could be anything worse than their loved one dying. But there are things worse. Generally, it's having someone you love die badly; suffering and connected to machines," Byock said.

Dr. Elliott Fisher, a researcher at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy, stated, "The real problem is that many of the patients that are being treated aggressively, if you ask them, they would prefer less aggressive care.

"They would prefer to be cared for at home. They'd prefer to go to hospice. If

they were given a choice. But we don't adequately give them a choice," Fisher said. "Collectively, as a culture, we really have to start looking at what a healthy, morally robust way for people to die looks like." *For the full transcript, search "Fisher Byock" at cbsnews.com.*

Patient Freedom of Choice

All patients have a common law right, based upon court decisions, to control the care provided to them, including who renders it.

Thus, when patients voluntarily express preferences for providers, their choices must be honored, regardless of payer source, level of care or type of treatment.

Federal statutes of the Medicare and Medicaid Programs guarantee Medicare beneficiaries and Medicaid recipients the right to freedom of choice of providers. When these patients voluntarily express preferences for post-acute providers of all types, these choices must be honored.

Hospitals are required to honor patients' choices of hospices if they voluntarily express them. Hospitals are not required to offer patients choices of hospices, including lists of hospices. Some hospitals, however, voluntarily use lists of hospices even though they are not required to do so.

Elizabeth E. Hogue, Esq.



Edward McIntyre, M.D. Combines Energy & Passion With an Old-Fashioned Manner

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with Anthony Palumbo

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Growing up in Pennsylvania, Edward McIntyre had no clue that his future would include a career in medicine.

He went directly into the Navy after graduating from high school. Following completion of his military career and his first year of college, he was still in search of a true direction for his life.

After finding summer employment as an orderly in a nursing home, Ed McIntyre saw the need and felt the pull, not just from the science of medicine, but also from its human aspect. From then on, he knew where his future would take him. In 1981, he earned his medical degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

He has had a private practice in High Springs for 15 years. As Medical Director for Hospice of the Nature Coast since early 2009, Dr. McIntyre combines his energy and passion for patient care with his penchant for practicing what he calls “an old-fashioned manner.”

Overseeing the interdisciplinary team of nurses, social workers, home health aides, chaplains and volunteers, Dr. McIntyre says that it is “very satisfying

Recognizing the Value of Hospice Care

“I have a strong interest in end-of-life care, with a focus on the well-being of the patients and their ability to be involved in their care plan.”

“As a medical student and as an intern in the hospital setting, I was often disappointed when patients were not well informed about treatment options and their disease process. Sometimes it seemed as if the dying process was painfully separated from their family and friends.”

“Intuitively, I knew that there was a better way of caring for patients with terminal illnesses.”

to be able to work with such a talented team of professionals.”

Dr. McIntyre is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Florida Academy of Family Physicians and the Alachua County Medical Society.

– ABOUT US –

Hospice of the Nature Coast, a program of Hospice of Citrus County, Inc., licensed 1985, is a not-for-profit charitable organization providing comprehensively responsive and compassionate end-of-life services to the terminally ill and their families in 12 counties of North Central Florida.