

What does the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization *do*, anyway?

EDUCATION

- Annual Conference for hospice staff each November.
- Hospice Volunteer Conference each July.
- Runs the quarterly Hospice Administrators' Roundtable.
- Key Issues Seminar for New Hospice Professionals – an orientation on family dynamics, communication, ethical decision-making and team building for new hospice employees – each April and October.
- Review Course for the Hospice and Palliative Nursing Certification Exam each August.
- Advanced Hospice Nursing Seminar each April.
- Ethics Seminar each spring.
- Retreats for hospice professionals each spring.
- Semiannual networking sessions for volunteer coordinators.
- Special training like “Documentation Practices for Hospice Patients and Families,” March 2004.
- Manage professional education accreditation for NJHPCO's programs.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Develop NJHPCO's public education campaign to make the public more aware of the value of hospice services.
- Manage and enhance www.njhospice.org, the public's newest resource for hospice information.
- Co-sponsor of Healthcare Proxy Weekend (Nov. 11-13, 2005) to distribute 50,000 healthcare proxy forms in the New York metro area and encourage local-level and family discussions about EOL care planning.
- Coordinate Hospice Sabbath, which seeks to educate churchgoers about hospice/EOL issues.
- Manage the NJHPCO Spirit of Hospice Awards each November, through which physicians, government officials, corporations, civic group leaders and funeral directors are honored for their support of hospice.
- Manage the NJHPCO Hospice Team Awards each November, in which outstanding hospice professionals and volunteers are recognized as role models.

PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS

- Refer over 1,000 patients per year to NJHPCO member hospices, in response to calls from referral sources and families/patients seeking hospice care.
- Serve as a resource and expert for referral sources for potential hospice patients – physicians, nurses, social workers, clergy, geriatricians, discharge planners, etc.
- Present to professional organizations, such as the keynote address at the Gerontology Institute of New Jersey's annual conference.
- Create the Palliative Homecare Seminar, at which home care nurses are trained in EOL care and how to recognize when patients become hospice-appropriate.
- Sponsor a series of afternoon Professional Forums in Pediatric EOL Care to enhance skills and increase the comfort level of caregiving professionals working with children with life-limiting illness.
- Take an active role in two Hospice - Veteran Partnerships, which are encouraging use of community hospice by veterans -- run through the VA, serving the VISN 3 area (NY / northern NJ) and VISN 4 (PA / DE / southern NJ).
- Represent NJHPCO at meetings of other provider associations, including those serving home care, hospitals and nursing homes.
- Serve on professional groups related to EOL care -- the Medical Society of New Jersey's Committee on Biomedical Ethics, and the New Jersey Pain Initiative.

REIMBURSEMENT & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Represent New Jersey's hospices to the quarterly Medicare regional Hospice Advisory Committee.
- Serve as a liaison between New Jersey Medicaid and the New Jersey hospice community.
- Respond to legislators' requests to comment on proposed legislation and regulation.
- Serve on State of New Jersey Advisory Committee on Pain Management Policy.
- Offer NJHPCO member hospices technical assistance on reimbursement and regulations.