

HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE OF GREATER WAYNE COUNTY

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

We, the patient and caregiver, agree to admission to the Hospice & Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County (HPC) program and understand and agree to the following conditions. We request that HPC assume professional management of patient care.

Introduction: We understand that the Hospice program is palliative, not curative, in its goals. The program emphasizes the relief of symptoms such as pain and physical discomfort and addresses the spiritual needs and emotional stress which may accompany a life-limiting illness.

Caregiver: We understand that Hospice services are not intended to take the place of care by family members or others who are important to the patient, but rather to support them in the care of the patient. With the help of Hospice, the person designated as "caregiver" will provide around-the-clock care to the patient at home. If 24 hour care is not available, the caregiver will make arrangements for 24 hour care. The "caregiver" will also participate in decisions about the care provided to the patient at home and/or in the inpatient setting.

Home Care: We understand that home care is the main focus of the Hospice program. Services are provided in the patient's place of residence by a team of Hospice staff and volunteers through scheduled visits. Consultation and visits for urgent matters and pain and symptom control are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Inpatient Care: We understand that if it is determined necessary by Hospice and the patient's attending physician, the patient can receive short term care in a contracted inpatient facility when pain or other symptoms fail to respond to home care management. Other reasons may be determined on an individual basis. We understand that when the Hospice team decides there is no longer a need for Hospice inpatient care, the patient will be discharged. The Hospice staff will provide assistance to us in making discharge plans.

Respite Care: We understand that there may be times when the caregiver needs a break from care giving or the care giving is compromised due to other reasons. Short five day inpatient stays can be arranged for the patient in one of the contracted respite facilities.

Continuous Care: We understand that circumstances at times may necessitate a member of the Hospice Interdisciplinary Team be present in the home for pain/symptom management. Continuous Care may be initiated and utilized on a short term basis, to maintain a person's comfort in the home and will be coordinated by the Case Manager.

Choice of Care: We understand that we will have a choice about the care provided to us. We may review the plan of care that guides Hospice services and, if we desire, may refuse a particular treatment or service offered.

We further understand that some medical services or procedures, such as advanced cardiac life support or respirators, are not provided by Hospice. The subject of resuscitation should be discussed with the patient's physician. Other services, such as intravenous therapy, are provided only if they are determined by the Hospice Interdisciplinary Team to be necessary for the patient's comfort.

Follow-Up Care for Families: We understand that the "caregiver" and others who are part of the patient's family or who are important to the patient may choose to participate in the Hospice bereavement program. Services designed for family members and others include individual counseling, support groups, phone contacts, mailings, and memorial services.

Records: We authorize Hospice & Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County to obtain copies of medical and billing records and to keep records which may include necessary information about the patient's medical condition, family and finances during the time which we are under the care of the Hospice program.

We permit the release of necessary information and medical records to or from any appropriate agency, medical person, physician, regulatory and/or accrediting body, or consultant as required to assure coordination and continuity of care and as necessary for reimbursement. Except as required for patient care, reimbursement, or quality improvement, such records will not be released to persons outside Hospice without our written consent.

